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MANCHESTER

OLD AND NEW



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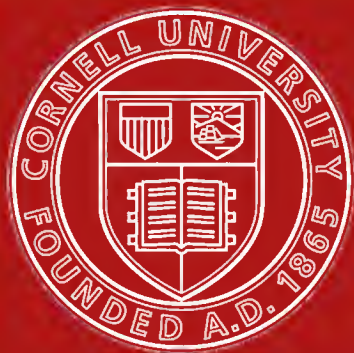
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MANCHESTER OLD AND NEW



ST. JAMES'S: AMONGST THE WAREHOUSES.

MANCHESTER

OLD AND NEW

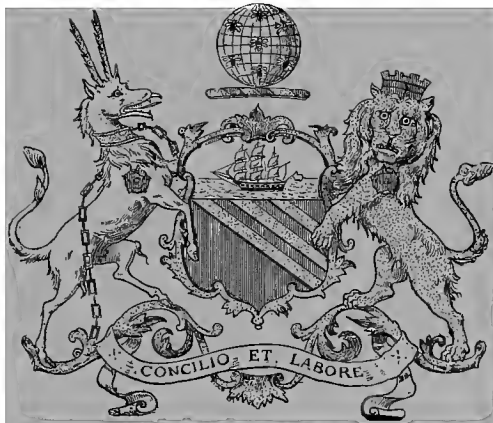
BY

WILLIAM ARTHUR SHAW M.A.

FELLOW OF OWENS COLLEGE

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AFTER ORIGINAL DRAWINGS BY

H. E. TIDMARSH



THE ARMS OF MANCHESTER

VOLUME II

CASSELL AND COMPANY LIMITED

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WINDING AND WEAVING IN THE OLD DAYS.

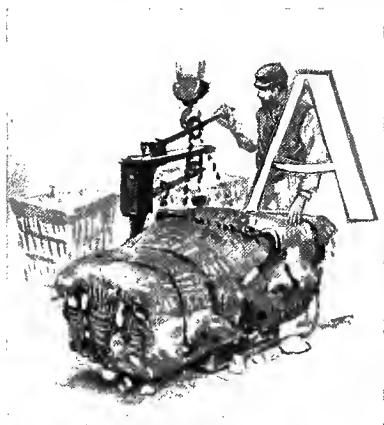
CHAPTER IV.

THE TRADE OF THE CITY.

"Hail, Portland Street, the tradesmen's greatest pride."—*Gimcrackiana* (adapted).

"Yarn is an income."—*Herrick*.

The Staple Industry of Manchester—Inside a Cotton Mill—Spinning and Weaving—Yarn Agents: Dilworth's, Munn's—A Home Trade House: Bannerman's—Shipping Houses: Graham's, Schuster's, Grant's, Birley's—Macintosh and Co.—Calico Printing and Dyeing—Hoyle and Sons—Velveteen Cutting, Dyeing, and Dressing: Worrall's—Bleaching: Bealey's—"Hookers-in"—The Royal Exchange—The Post Office—Some Historic Manchester Trading Houses—The Co-operative Wholesale Society—Lewis's—Richard Cobden—The Free Trade Movement—The Hat Trade—The Engineering Industry—Richard Roberts—Sharp Stewart and Co.—The Railways—Beyer Peacock and Co., Nasmyth, Sir William Fairbairn's, Sir Joseph Whitworth's, Galloway's, Mather and Platt's, Sir W. H. Bailey's—The Banking Interest: Jones, Loyd and Co.'s. Heywood's, and Brooks'—The Joint Stock Banks.



WEIGHING THE BALE.

At the outset it is not a little surprising to the historical student accustomed to drawing on a bank whereon centuries of wild time grow to find how recent a thing in reality the commercial supremacy of Manchester and Lancashire is. As people understand it nowadays, its commercial greatness is really only a creation of this century. For hundreds of years previously Manchester had been celebrated for its trade and activity, but we have already seen in what sense that information is to be taken. The place was a little, active town, with old-fashioned industries that were literally handicrafts. Cotton was spun by hand and woven in the hand-loom;

in the manufacture of hats the wool was "bowed" by the large old-fashioned hatters' bow, and so on. There was no iron industry; the chief manufactures of the place were fustians, smallwares, and hats, and the list of industries would be complete with the addition of fulling, dyeing, and bleaching, or whitsterning, as Shakespeare called it. For centuries the town's trade ran on these lines, and, except for the spirit of its inhabitants, it did not materially differ from any other busy little English town of the time, nor did it promise anything materially different in its future until there burst on this old order one of the most astonishing series of mechanical inventions the world has ever witnessed.

Something like one single generation saw the invention of the steam-engine, the spinning-jenny, the "water-frame," the mule, the card, the loom; and before the breath of this new influence the town's old order vanished like the baseless fabric of a vision. Farm-labourers came pouring in to find strange freedom and high wages in the new occupation. Enterprising yeomen from far and near—from Yorkshire, from Scotland—threw up agriculture, migrated to Manchester, opened warehouses, and founded some of the most princely fortunes of to-day.

Following the adoption of machinery came the development of the factory system, and the household spinning and weaving disappeared. Here and there on the hills that separate Yorkshire and Lancashire, and in the half-country places in the south-east of the county, there still remain many of the old large-roomed houses in which these displaced industries were practised, standing to us as skeleton witnesses of the unwritten side of the history of the great industrial revolution, the blight and decay of household and village craftsmanship. Now all this—the ruthless treading out and abandonment of the old; the feverish, astonishing development of the new—is a matter of our own times almost. With the exception of the Hoyles and the Bealeys, and perhaps one or two houses more, the great representative firms of Manchester—Bannerman, Philips, Kershaw, Sidebottom, Schuster, Birley, Callender, Armitage, Watts, Rylands, not to speak of the extinct Potter, Westhead, Carlton, and others—all these have not yet reached their hundredth year, and many of the most flourishing houses are younger still.

In most of the cases named, the firms were established during the first decade of the present century, a time when the new state of things was rapidly developing itself, and when the progress of Lancashire was being watched by quick

eyes from far and near. From Frankfort, Meyer Anselm sent his son Nathan Meyer Rothschild, the future world-financier, to open a warehouse in Brown Street; the Potters came from Tadcaster, the Bannermans from Perthshire, and so on.

In the first decade of the present century the founder of the last-named firm—Mr. Henry Bannerman, a Perthshire farmer—sent his eldest son, David, to Manchester to see what prospects the cotton trade offered. He took a small warehouse in Marsden Square, and prospered so well as to induce his father to throw up the farm and bring the whole family south. They came by boat from Glasgow to Liverpool, and we are told that the voyage occupied fourteen days, and when they were twenty miles from Liverpool they had to leave the vessel and row the rest of the distance in an open boat. The new firm was styled Henry Bannerman and Sons, four

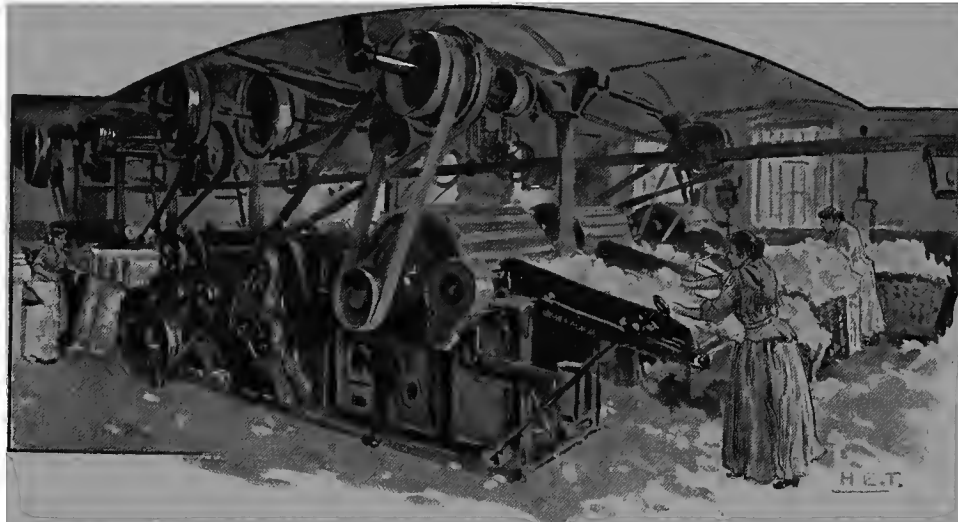


MILLDOM—ANCOATS: DINNER TIME.

out of the five sons having joined—namely, David, Alexander, John, and Henry—and it was first located in Market Street Lane, in some rooms between Cleveland Buildings and Spring Gardens. The goods dealt in were fustians, cotton-ticks, grey and white calicoes, nankeens, muslins, and plain fabrics generally, the house becoming famous more especially for Scots, Blackburn, and Bolton muslins. Its customers were spread over Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and the North, there being, it appears, little trade with the Midlands or South of England.

The firm's growth was rapid. From Market Street Lane they moved to Cannon Street, at that time the merchant quarter of the town *par excellence*. There they occupied a warehouse at the corner of Marsden Square, afterwards tenanted by Messrs. Thomas Barnes and Co. Afterwards a removal was made to a warehouse adjoining the Royal Hotel in Market Street; and, after a time, more space being required, a

communication was made by means of a covered bridge (still existing) with a new warehouse on the other side of West Mosley Street. In 1842 they built what was then considered a most impressive pile of warehouses in York Street, and there a further extension took place, the Canadian trade becoming an important feature.

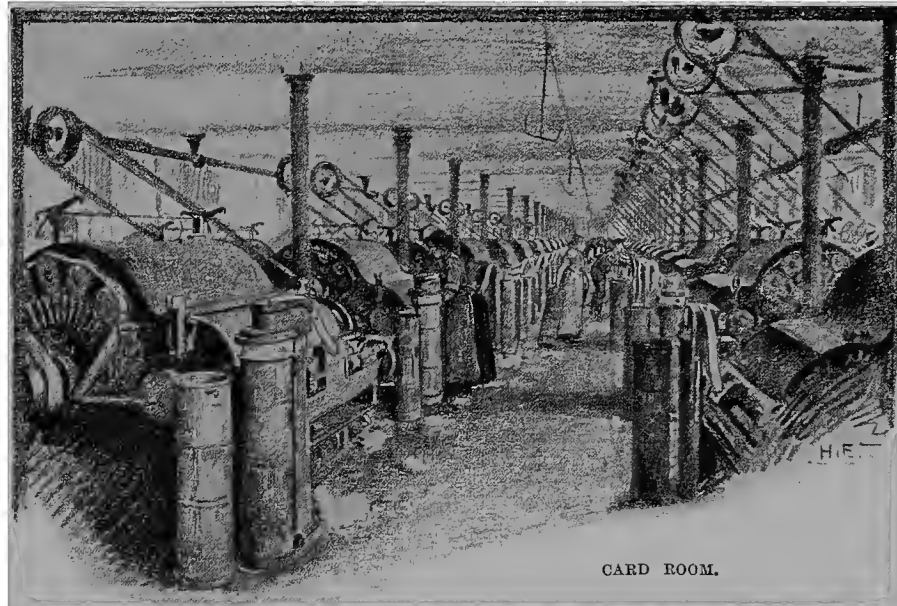


SCUTCHING ROOM.

In 1864 the firm bought the North End and River Meadow Mills, Staleybridge, thus becoming spinners and manufacturers as well as merchants. They afterwards acquired the Brunswick Mill, Anecoats, and the Old Hall Mill, Dukinfield. In 1889 the whole of the manufacturing business was made into a private limited company, under the name of the Bannerman Mills Company, and a similar course was adopted in the following year with the merchant branch. Of the old members of the firm, Henry Bannerman had died June 6, 1823, at the age of 69. David Bannerman died in 1829, and Alexander in 1846. Some years later John withdrew from close association with the business, and went to live at Wyastone-Leys, on the Wye near Monmouth, where he died in 1870. The remaining brother, Henry, who had likewise withdrawn from active participation in the business, and retired to Hunton Court, Kent, died there in 1871. He was succeeded, in his landed estates, by his nephew, Mr. Henry Campbell, now the Right Honourable H. Campbell-Bannerman, M.P. At the time of the conversion, therefore, the partners remaining were Mr. William Young, a grandson of the founder; Mr. James Alexander Bannerman and Mr. David Bannerman, two sons of David Bannerman; Charles Wright Macara, afterwards the managing director; and Mr. William Henry Young. All these names were included in the new directorate.

In its organisation this house may be taken as very typical of a Manchester home-trade house—one, *i.e.*, dealing entirely with Manchester goods. For a time there was a tendency in some warehouses to try to compass every article by the departmental system. But the idea savours less of Manchester than of London, with its huge stores or overgrown shops. This is, of course, quite a different thing from a departmental organisation of various kinds of one distinct class of goods—Manchester goods, let us say. For instance, in the firm we are noticing there is only one species of goods dealt in. Formerly the house traded in silks, ribbons, smallwares, and all the thousand articles that go under the general term “Fancies.” These have now been entirely abandoned, and only the heavy trade retained—cloth in several forms. In this case it affords variety for no less than twelve departments, and might do so for more. There is a department devoted to grey calicoes, including twills and sheetings, a second to linen, a third to flannel and blankets, and so on successively for dyed linings, white calico, woollen cloth, velveteen and fustian, sundries, prints and Oxfords including cretonnes, gingham, zephyrs, stuffs and fancy, winseys, skirtings, muslins and curtains, and, finally, quilts.

As the firm we are dealing with combines both the



CARD ROOM.

manufacturing and merchant sides of the cotton business, it will admirably serve our purpose as a complete illustration of the various aspects of the great Lancashire industry.

Their Brunswick Mill is situated in Ancoats, a densely populated part of Manchester and from the first associated with all forms of the cotton manufacture.

The actual process of cotton working as shown there begins in the mixing-room, where the process of opening is performed. The cotton as it arrives is packed in

hydraulic-pressed bales, and, when the iron hoops are broken and the bales opened, is found lying matted in closely-adhering strata. It is the work of the opener not only to open or loosen this material, but also to clean it from the dirt and refuse, stones or whatever foreign material still adheres—often pieces of wood and even cartridges, we are told. The cotton is placed on a creeper, and carried into the opener, in which is a beater working at the rate of eleven hundred revolutions a minute, and assisted by a fan producing a strong draught. The heavier impurities drop into receivers, while the fibres of the cotton are disentangled and in this case are carried by the draught to the level of the ceiling of the adjoining blowing- and scutching-room, and there drop on the floor beneath. The succeeding work of the scutching-room is a further process of cleansing by blowing and beating, but regard must now be paid to quantities in order to ensure the regularity and evenness that are the main requisites in cotton-spinning. These are secured by an arrangement in the scutcher by which the amount of cotton allowed to pass at a time is regulated by rollers with compensating movements.

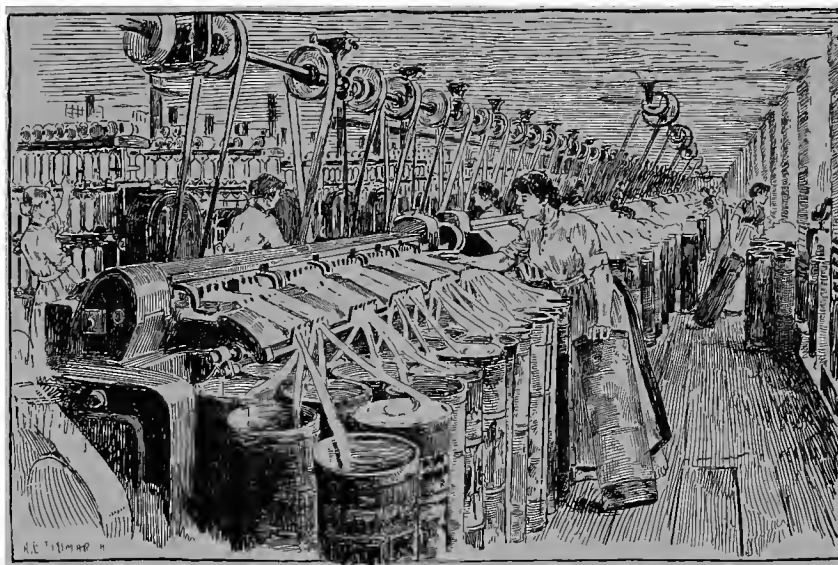
From the scutcher the cotton is finally delivered in the form of a smooth, felted web, like a sheet of wadding, and known as a “lap.” Before these laps are ready for the card they are again subjected to a further cleaning in the finishing scutcher. Five of the laps are placed on the creeper of this finishing machine, beaten and blown as before, and finally delivered as one large lap ready for the card.

The object of the succeeding operation—carding (p. 5) is the further cleaning of the material, and also the separation of the fibres of the cotton, by combing. In the lap the fibres lie any way, but in the fine film, or “sliver,” which issues from the card something has been done towards rendering them parallel. These slivers thus delivered from the card are then taken to the “drawing-frame” (p. 7), by means of which a number of them are united into one. This interesting machine comprises three parts or “heads.” Each head deals with six slivers as they are brought from the card in cans, and acting as with a finger-and-thumb movement, unites them into one continuous sliver, draws them out to the required length, and delivers the resultant sliver again into a can. Six of these united slivers are then treated in the second head, and identically in the third, so that the resulting sliver contains two hundred and sixteen of the original slivers that issued from the carding machine. To such automatic perfection has the machine been brought, says Mr. Mortimer, our

authority, that if one of these light, filmy slivers should happen to break, the machine is instantly stopped.

Up to this point the cotton has been simply cleaned, combed, and drawn out. The process of imparting a twist commences in the slubbing-frame, in which, as they issue from the rollers, the slivers are reduced in bulk and get their first twist. The last of these preparatory processes consists in repeated doubling, first in the intermediate and then in the Jack frame.

Thus before the material passes into the spinning-room to be made into yarn these various preparatory processes have given us a film or thread, contain-

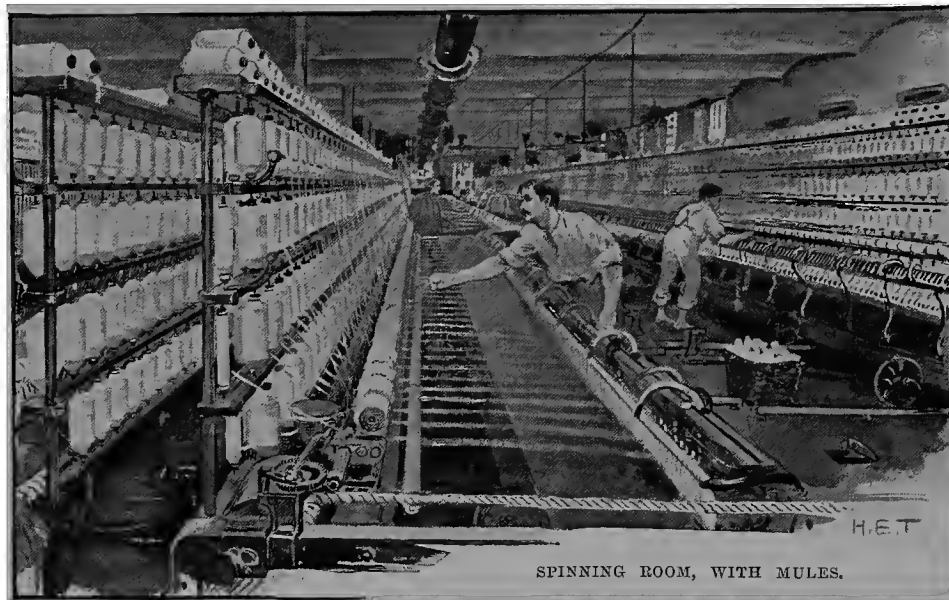


FRAME ROOM (DRAWING-FRAME IN FOREGROUND).

ing, through repeated doublings, eight hundred and sixty-four of the original slivers which issued from the carding machine. The actual work of the spinning-room (p. 8) will probably be fully known to most of our readers. To the uninitiated it may be briefly described as a double process of drawing out to render fine, and of twisting to render strong. The drawing out is done by sets of rollers, the front set moving at a quicker speed than their fellows, and by the travelling-carriage, while the twist is imparted by the spindles, which make about 10,000 revolutions per minute. In travelling out the carriage moves slowly, as if it found the task of pulling out its 1,000 threads or so (sometimes there are 1,296 spindles to a mule) a herculean task; then it reaches its limit, there is a pause, the spindles stop, and the rollers cease to give out rovings; for a moment the spindles perform a reverse movement, a "backing off," and then with a bound the carriage rushes back to the frame, and the yarn that had been drawn out is wound around the spindle in the shape of a cop. The headstock of the self-acting mule which controls this motion is a wonderful piece of mechanism, and of further interest to us as the offspring of the

brain of the most remarkable mechanical genius whom Manchester can claim. It is, in fact, the only contribution of note Manchester has herself, or through her sons, made to the great series of mechanical inventions that has inaugurated the reign of cotton. For, as we shall see, none of the first eighteenth-century inventors were Manchester men.

When the cops have been cleared from the spindles they are taken to the weighing-in room, and afterwards warehoused, remaining until they are conditioned—



i.e., until any brittleness caused by the high temperature in which they have been spun has passed away, when they are fit for use. Such of the yarns as are required for home use remain in the cop, those that are intended for export are either shipped in the cop or made into hanks, and afterwards pressed into bundles (p. 9).

The Brunswick Mill, from which this description has been mainly taken, contains nearly 80,000 spindles, being about one-half the quantity contained in the combined mills; and this is by no means an excessive quantity. In the large "Limiteds," which are making for the south-east of the county a new heaven and a new earth—blackening both sky and soil—it is possible to find 100,000 or more spindles to a mill, arranged differently as a mill finds its market. The yarn spun by the mules consists either of twist or weft; the former, serving for warp-threads, is stronger and has a harder twist given to it than the weft. Accordingly, in one large typical concern we find 96,000 spindles



WEAVING SHED, HAWORTH'S MILLS, ORDSALL.

devoted to twist, and 54,000 to weft. But the proportion depends entirely upon a company's trade.

As a rule in the Lancashire trade spinning is separated from weaving, and from the nature of the case—seeing that one loom can work up the yarn produce of we know not how many spindles—is the larger industry. But there are numerous cases, as in the one we are now taking as typical, in which a firm both spins and weaves. When this is not so, the yarn is sold to the “manufacturer” through the yarn agent, thus giving rise to one of the great middleman figures of the cotton industry. Far and away first and most representative in this branch of Manchester trade is the firm of James Dilworth and Son—the yarn agents *par excellence*, as one might say in mixed phrase. The reputation of this house is untouched alike for long standing, for extent of business,



PACKING FOR EXPORTATION.

and sustained tradition of commercial honour. And, although the firm has long since changed hands, it still in this last respect reflects the personality of its originator. The founder of the business was James Dilworth, who was born about 1790. While still a lad of about seventeen he entered the employ of Messrs. Birley and Hornby, cotton manufacturers of Preston, and rose by his ability and character to an important position under them. He subsequently, in 1820, began business as a yarn commission agent in Water Street, Preston, visiting Manchester on the two market-days in each week, and on the intervening days attending the markets at Blackburn and Chorley. His business proved so successful that in 1837 he opened a warehouse in Manchester, in Winter's Buildings, St. Ann's Street, continuing at the same time the business in Preston. A year later Mr. Dilworth took his son into partnership, and in 1842 the business was concentrated in Manchester and the Preston place closed. Since those early days the Manchester

address has itself changed several times, to Back Square, to New Market Hall, and finally to Pall Mall and Strutt Street, where it still remains. At present these premises are occupied only by the ranges of offices, the warehouses having been removed from the centre of the city in 1876.

The personality, too, of the firm has changed, although there has been no change in the title or honourable business methods. James Dilworth, the founder, died in 1854, and his son John in 1860. Five years previously, on January 1st, 1855, Mr. Abraham Haworth, who had been with the firm for the preceding ten years, was received into partnership, and he was afterwards joined by two brothers, Mr. Jesse Haworth in 1865, and Mr. Walter Haworth in 1873. At the latter date Mr. George Massey was also admitted into partnership, and at the beginning of 1890 Mr. Arthur A. Haworth, eldest son of Mr. Abraham Haworth. These names represent the constitution of the firm at the actual moment, with the exception of Mr. Walter Haworth, who died in 1890.

The principle on which this house has from the first conducted its business has been that of acting purely and simply as spinners' agents. They work entirely on behalf of the spinner, receiving only a commission, and neither buying nor selling on their own account.

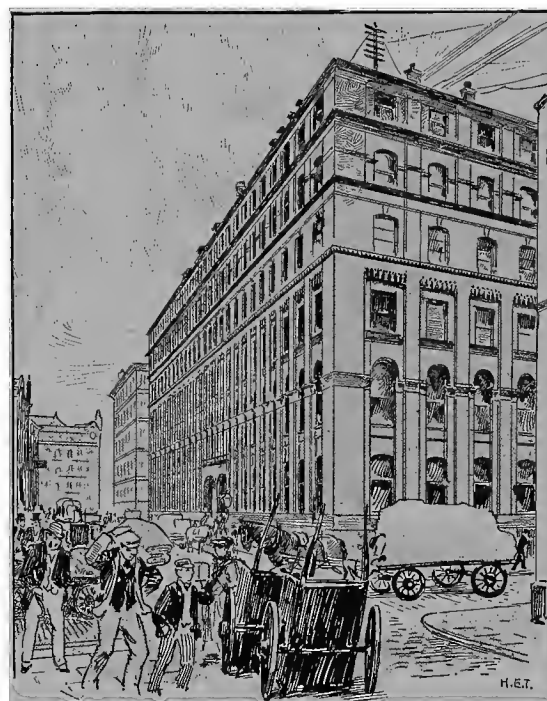
In this matter the trade custom differs somewhat. Some yarn agents act as merchants, buying and warehousing on their own account, as well as selling on commission: and as, of course, there is a large yarn export trade, the position of such a middleman is more easily comprehended. A very representative house of this kind is that of J. Munn and Company, yarn agents and commission merchants of Fountain Street. It is, too, amongst the oldest in the trade, having been established in the second decade of the century by John Munn, who in 1819 was located in Bank Buildings and resided in Prestwich. He at first acted only as agent, but subsequently embarked in manufacturing, having works at Bacup and afterwards at Newchurch, but for the last ten years or so the firm has restricted itself to the agency and merchanting part of the business.

With the ordinary process of manufacturing and weaving, many people in Lancashire are perfectly familiar. The yarn or threads intended for warp are wound upon bobbins, and then upon the large roller called the warper's beam. After being sized, in order to give them the requisite stiffening, they are dried over steam-

heated cylinders, and then arranged in the loom. The warp forms the longitudinal threads of the cloth to be manufactured, and the process of weaving consists of lifting half the threads of the warp to allow the shuttle bearing the weft to pass between. Each pass of the shuttle forms a pick; the threads are then reversed, and the shuttle repasses, and so on. This is the simplest form of weaving. There are many others in which the "shedding" is produced in various ways. The most recent improvement in the loom is a German patent, manufactured by Messrs. Hall of Bury. It is an extremely intricate machine, but ordinarily the Jacquard type prevails as yet.

By means of "tappets" or other arrangements governing the movements of the healds which lift the warp-threads, different kinds of cloth are produced; and in this way the clumsy loom produces all the various kinds of cotton cloth which are the foundation of Manchester's trade—shirtings, domestics, printers, twills, spots, jeanetts, satins, drills, serges, velvets, and a dense array more.

Messrs. Bannerman, the firm we have been dealing with as typical of a Manchester heavy goods warehouse, is technically known as a home-trade house. Their travellers cover the whole of the United Kingdom, and their goods are prepared for those markets. The shipping trade, which they also cultivate in connection with their mills, is considered quite separate and distinct. The markets, foreign and colonial, differ altogether in their requirements—different material, different counts of yarn, different cloths and designs. Not that there is an essential difference in the fabric so much as in the market needs and conditions and customs. Distinct, however, the shipping trade is, and it would be difficult to convey an idea as to the magnitude of it. The principal markets are Turkey, China, and India. During the first month of 1894, 8,622,500 yards of grey cotton piece-goods were exported to Turkey, three times that amount to



IN WAREHOUSE-LAND (SCHUSTER, FULDA, AND CO.).

China and Hong Kong, and more than 122,107,500 to the British East Indies. Of *bleached* piece-goods Turkey took 4,900,100, and Egypt 7,678,300 yards; China 9,688,900, and India 36,000,000. The next great division is *printed* cotton piece-goods, of which Turkey took in January, 1894, 8,900,500 yards, China 1,870,800, and the British East Indies about 24,913,600. Similar figures could be given for dyed piece-goods. The total length of cotton piece-goods of all kinds exported during this period of one month was 461,951,200 yards, valued at £4,622,821. If this is an average, it gives an export trade of this almost entirely Lancashire product of the round value of £56,000,000 per annum, an amount which does not include



VIEW FROM LONDON ROAD STATION, WITH HOYLE'S WORKS.

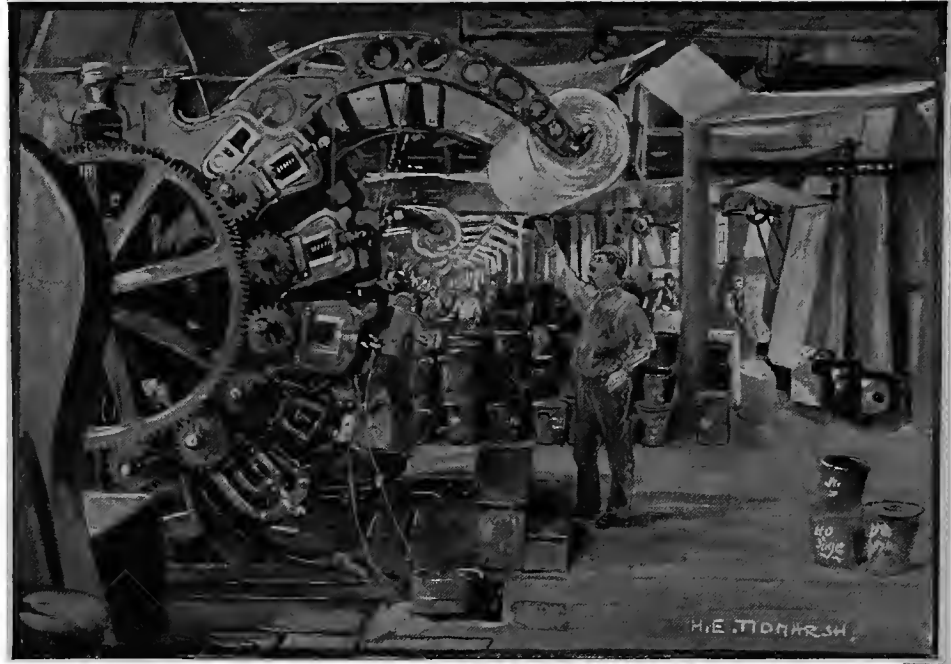
the value of cotton-yarn, which was in January, 1894, 18,310,600 pounds, or of lace, cotton hosiery, or thread also exported, which, if included, would give a grand total for the month quoted, of £6,175,668 value exported.

For the sake of illustration as to the essential magnitude of this shipping trade, compare it with the output of any other great British industry. The total value of the exports for January, 1894, of woollen and worsted yarns and goods was £1,722,667, of coal £1,531,603, of machinery and steam-engines £967,519.

As will be seen from these figures, one of the chief—indeed, *the* chief—market for this Manchester shipping trade is the East Indies. About one-third of the production

of Lancashire goes to British India. The steady expansion of this particular trade has been very remarkable. To go no farther back than the "fifties," the shipments from the United

Kingdom to British India were 25,000,000 pounds of yarn and 450,000,000 yards of cloth annually. In 1891 the corresponding figures were 53,000,000 lbs. of yarn and 1,960,000,000 yards of cloth.



INTERIOR OF A CALICO-PRINTING HOUSE.

Of the many influential and wealthy firms engaged in this trade, among the oldest and most representative are Messrs. William Graham and Co. and Lyon Lord and Co. The first-named firm started about 1836 as merchants in Bond Street, and shortly afterwards opened a house in Bombay, followed in the "sixties" by the establishment of a house in Calcutta, and lastly by a branch in Korachi, in the "eighties." The Manchester address of the firm has undergone several changes—from Bond Street to Aytoun Street, to 33, Chorlton Street, to Major Street, and finally, in 1883, to 48, Sackville Street, which was unfortunately burned out in 1893. The founder of the business, Mr. William Graham, a well-known man in his day, was for some years member for Glasgow in the Liberal interest. To-day the firm is represented by Sir F. Forbes Adam, C.I.E., and Mr. A. J. Hunter.

Messrs. Lyon Lord and Co. are a younger house. The firm started as Lord Brothers some time before 1868 in David Street, off Portland Street, but now has its warehouse, with a different title, in Princess Street. Mr. Lord is well known as, along with Sir Frank Forbes Adam, the stoutest champion of monometallism in Manchester.

The chief markets for this Manchester shipping trade outside the East Indies are Turkey and South America, and as typical more especially of the latter branch we may take one of the oldest-established shipping-houses in Manchester—Messrs. Schuster, Fulda and Co. The founder of this house was Mr. Leo Schuster, who began trading in Manchester some time before 1824 at 22, Charlotte Street. The warehouse was successively changed to 18, Mosley Street, 50, Spring Gardens, and then, in 1850, with the altered title of Leo Schuster, Brothers and Co., to 33, George Street. From 1858 onwards the firm styled themselves shipping merchants, having previously acted in several other capacities—*e.g.*, as agents for Pascoe, Grenfell and Sons, copper-roller manufacturers. In 1866 the house removed to its present premises in Sackville Street, and eight years later its style was altered to Schuster, Fulda and Co., as it is to-day (p. 11).

One would like to catch a glimpse of the interesting founder of this house, who is said to have borne a striking resemblance to the first Napoleon; but we have only a few fugitive references. At the meeting of merchants on the 10th of January, 1839, which was to prove the first real step in the formation of the Anti-Corn-Law League, Mr. J. B. Smith, afterwards secretary of the movement, to whose memory very insufficient honour has been paid, after promising his own subscription of £100, told the members that he was commissioned to put down Mr. Schuster's name for the like amount. One further item of information seems to be incorrect. It is well known that in those early days Mosley Street was mainly a residential part of the town. The street appears to have been laid out some time after 1750, and was looked upon as the extreme limit of the town on that side. It was accordingly chosen as the locality for numerous fine churches, the Unitarian Chapel, the Mosley Street Independent Chapel, etc., as also for the public institutions that were growing up—the Manchester Academy, the Royal Institution, the Portico, and the Assembly Rooms. It is not surprising, therefore, that most of the wealthy families of the town resided there, and in 1793 Dalton described it as the most elegant and retired street in the town. In the list of the wealthy residents of a later date, Mr. Schuster's name is given, but seemingly with only his business address, for we find his "house" address to have been Crumpsall Green, and then successively Cheetham Hill; the Polygon, Ardwick; and Hope Field, near Eccles. He died at Roehampton, near London.

It is evident, therefore, that the transformation of Mosley Street into a business part had already begun in the first quarter of the century. During the same period, for instance, Messrs. Cardwell and Longworth's mill stood on the site of the present Manchester and Salford Bank. But the street was a long time before it quite lost its residential character. In 1808-9 Nathan Meyer Rothschild resided there, at No. 25, presumably the house at the corner of York Street, which was occupied for many years by Messrs. Bradshaw, Hammond and Co., calico printers. At the age of twenty-three this extraordinary man was sent over from Frankfort by his father to purchase Manchester goods. In 1804 he describes himself as merchant and manufacturer, of Brown Street, with his house in Downing Street, Ardwick. Seven years later the firm became Rothschild Brothers, merchants, 5, Lloyd Street, Cooper Street, a little low pile of warehouses only removed some years since, and situated within a few yards of Dr. McKerrow's chapel. During his residence in Manchester Rothschild likewise occupied, previous to his removal to Mosley Street, the third house on the left-hand side in Faulkner Street. It was probably owing to his father's death, in 1812, that he abandoned business in Manchester for the great financial pursuit in which he made so much more than renown. Three years later he accomplished one of the most remarkable feats in his remarkable career, in securing the intelligence of Napoleon's escape from Elba twenty-five hours before the news reached the British Government. There are various traditions in Manchester that as a merchant here he was regarded with some caution and reserve by our steady-going and long-headed forefathers, and was generally required to pay cash down for his purchases before he could get delivery. We have been told that the business started by him was taken on his departure by Martin Schunck, then (about 1813) of 9, Back George Street, and founder of the present Schunck, Souchay, and Co., 62, Peter Street.

Among the other mercantile celebrities who resided in Mosley Street was Daniel Grant, of the firm of William Grant and Brother. The oft-repeated tradition is that these two old figures were the origin of the Cheeryble Brothers of "Nicholas Nickleby." Among others, Mr. Slugg, who knew them, has, however, something to say about this. "If Dickens has attempted their portrayal in these two characters, as regards their generosity, benevolence, and goodness of heart, I consider he has drawn a true picture, but all the rest is mere caricature. From what I remember of

Daniel Grant, I should say he was anything but loquacious, and was rather reserved and dignified in his manner, though condescending, considerate, and very kind to all he had to do with. I well remember how proud I was one morning when my master, having learnt that they were wanting concentrated lime-juice at the works, sent me to the warehouse to see Daniel Grant, and make him an offer of some. To



THE IRWELL AT ORDSALL: WORRALL'S WORKS.

my delight, he ordered about £100 worth. In giving me the order he wasted no words, and yet he did it so kindly that I have never forgotten the circumstance. In later years he used to arrive at his warehouse about ten or eleven o'clock, and usually came in his carriage. By the time of his arrival a number of poor people had gathered at the warehouse-door awaiting his coming. When his carriage drew up they would divide into two lines, forming an avenue from the carriage to the warehouse-door. If he did not distribute his alms to them himself, he would send a clerk out to them, and I believe they seldom went away unrelieved."

The Grants had their warehouse at the lower end of Cannon Street. Besides them, in Mosley Street lived David Bannerman, Richard Cobden, as we shall see, S. L. Behrens, and Hugh Hornby Birley. The last-named from 1815-36 occupied the house then numbered 28, York Street, at the corner opposite to the present Manchester and Salford Bank.

Even in those days the Birleys were a notable house. The original firm started

in 1808, or somewhat earlier, as Birley and Hornby, manufacturers and spinners, of Tipping's Court, Cannon Street, their factory being in Oxford Street. The warehouse was afterwards changed to 16, Back George Street, and in 1821 the firm became Birley, Hornby and Kirk, then Birley and Kirk, then, in 1838, Birley and Co. The various business ramifications of this family would of themselves fill a chapter of local history. Almost coeval with the first firm just referred to was that of Swainson, Birley, Turton and Co., spinners and manufacturers, who have worked the Fishwick Mills at Preston for half a century and more. Their first town warehouse

was at 5, New Market Buildings, and afterwards, for over twenty years, in Portland Street. At present the firm—now and since 1838, Swainson, Birley and Co.—describe them-



VELVETEEN - CUTTING BY HAND :
PLATT'S WORKS, WARRINGTON.

selves as cotton-spinners and manufacturers of longcloths, shirtings, sheetings, plain and fancy muslins, and what not. Their Manchester warehouse is at No. 7, Charlotte Street. They have warehouses also in London and Glasgow.

Another branch of the family became concerned in the manufacture of one of the more modern of Manchester fabrics—waterproofs. The name of Charles Macintosh and Co., manufacturers of patent waterproof and airproof cloth, first appears in Manchester in 1828. The firm was then located in 45, Back George Street, with works at Cambridge Street, Chorlton Row, or, as it is now called, Chorlton-on-Medlock. Besides their waterproof productions, by virtue of which the firm has given its name to the Macintosh overcoat, Messrs. Macintosh and Co. were the original patentees of vulcanised indiarubber, and are to-day manufacturers of indiarubber goods generally, as well as waterproof fabrics. The title of the firm,

which to-day has warehouses in Piccadilly, and at 2, Lever Street, as well as in London, Liverpool, and Glasgow, has never changed, although from the commencement the first-named Birley concern coalesced with it. They found the capital, and in process of time the extensive mills worked by Birley and Co. were converted into the Macintosh Indiarubber Works, and from some date before 1869 the former title disappears.

One of the partners in this concern of Macintosh was Hugh Birley, M.P., who died in 1883 at his residence in Didsbury. He represented Manchester in the Conservative interest from 1868 till his death, and, like all the Birleys, concerned himself deeply in the well-being of his townsmen. It is said that the various donations he made for the founding of churches in the city and neighbourhood amounted to no less a sum than £100,000 from first to last.

The indiarubber industry which thus started out of the greater related art cotton manufacture has become a most important factor in the trade of Manchester, there being between fifty and sixty, and probably more, considerable firms devoting themselves to it.

The founder of this representative family, Hugh Hornby Birley, was a well-known figure in Manchester. As major of the Manchester Yeomanry Cavalry at the time, he was by many held responsible for the affair of Peterloo—the massacre, as it was called. This was during the most heated period of the Reform agitation, and an attempt was made on the popular side to fix blame upon the yeomanry officers by bringing an action at Lancaster. As may be imagined, the case was dismissed. For our immediate purpose he is more noteworthy as the first President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. This association had been first started in 1820 for the promotion of measures calculated to benefit and protect the trading interests of its members and the general trade of the town and neighbourhood. There was crying need for such an institution, and the part which it has played in representing mercantile interests, especially to Parliamentary authority, is worthy of most marked recognition.

During a portion of the eighteenth century the wearing of printed calico had been forbidden under a penalty of £5 to the wearer and £20 to the seller of it. The idea was to protect the linen industry from this dangerous upstart rival, cotton; and when, in 1736, the manufacture of calico was allowed in Great Britain, it was

on the condition that the warp should be made entirely of linen yarn. The story has been often told how, when Arkwright had made his first all-cotton calico, it was sent back by the merchant in a terrible hurry when he found out that the material contravened the law. Afterwards when, from 1774 onwards, whole-cotton fabrics and prints were made, they were allowed to be lawful wear on payment of 3d. a yard, a duty which in 1806 was raised to 3½d. This incomprehensible piece of stupidity actually remained in force till 1834, when its repeal was carried by Mr. Poulett Thompson; and in the reminiscences of old firms and trade customs, in which Manchester local literature is so rich, frequent mention is made of the unscrupulous way in which the old Manchester merchant contrived to “do” the exciseman.

Every print-works was under the supervision of one of these officials, who used to visit the place at stated times. He stamped the tab-ends of prints with certain numbers and hieroglyphics, and levied the duty in accordance. Report says that one favourite way of getting over him was to ply him with hospitality until he gradually lost consciousness and self-control, then to borrow his stamp and use it as quickly as possible in stamping hundreds of pieces, which thus got into the market duty-free.

It was for the correction of such blockhead legislation as this that the Manchester Chamber of Commerce was established; and great credit is due to it for the prompt and wide-embracing championship with which it has watched the best mercantile interests of the community. If its history were written, its directorate would probably be found to furnish a chronicle in brief of the chief mercantile houses of the century. The first list of directors given—that for 1826—includes such figures as Thomas Hoyle, Henry Houldsworth, Thomas Sharp, Thomas Cardwell, of Cardwell, Longworth and Co., and many others.

The first of these names—that of Thomas Hoyle, the calico printer—is representative of one of the oldest-established businesses in the city (p. 12).

Calico printing and dyeing form the two complementary industries of the cotton trade. Of both these, as of the cotton trade itself, Lancashire is the centre and seat, and Manchester the home. The first mention of calico printing, or rather of calico printers, in the town, is in 1763, when William Jordan, “callique-printer,” of Little Green, baptised his child at the parish church. To-day there are, in or near

the city, something like fifty or sixty print-works, and that, too, although the conditions of the industry—the absolute necessity of a plentiful supply of pure soft water—have a tendency to drive the works to moorland districts. Very notable among these Manchester calico-printers is this firm of Thomas Hoyle and Sons, Limited. Long before the close of the last century the Hoyles were famed as dyers. At first

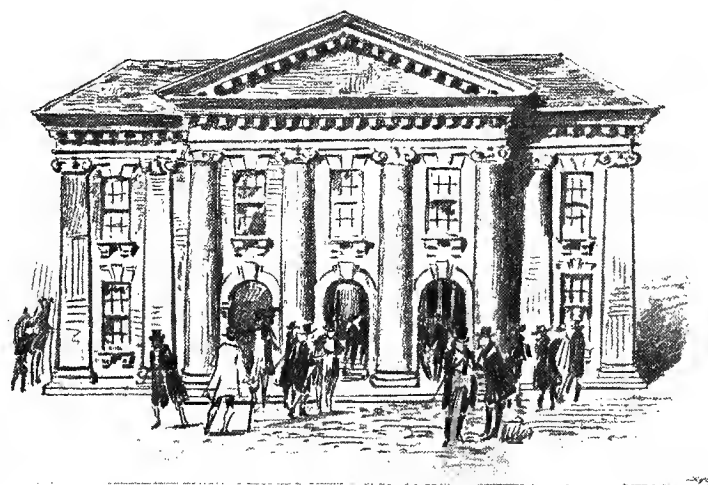


DYE HOUSE IN MESSRS. WORRALL'S WORKS.

they were styled “dyers, Ardwick,” then, in 1794, in Ancoats, and, three years later, their address was given as “Thomas Hoyle and Sons, dyers, Mayfield.” The original founder of the concern, Thomas Hoyle, senior, resided at first in Piccadilly, and afterwards near the Mayfield works. He died in the first quarter of the present century, leaving three daughters, one of whom was married to Alfred Binyon, a descendant of a rich banker at Kendal, who had provided the capital with which Arkwright began the cotton trade. A second daughter married Alderman William Neild, and the concern ultimately passed into his hands, although neither at that time, nor since, has its title been changed. In 1874, by which time the bleach-works at Sandy Vale, in Dukinfield, had been added to the Mayfield works, the firm was turned into a limited company, under the managing directorship of Mr. Alfred Neild and Mr. Joseph Compton, junior; but at the present time it is entirely under the direction of the former, Mr. Alfred Neild, for many years treasurer of the Owens College and now of the University.

As has been stated, the firm began as dyers, and it was not until about 1808 that they were noted as calico printers and dyers. This style was preserved for another forty years, but from 1845 onwards they designated themselves calico printers only. A glance at the process itself, however, reveals the fact that the two names mean pretty much the same thing.

In calico printing there are, broadly, two classes of treatment, the first in which colours are printed directly in the cloth, the second that of the development of the colours through the medium of mordants, and by the process of dyeing. As the second of these processes practically implies the first, a description of it will suffice for both. Before the cloth is ready for a printer it has to be singed and bleached. If the reader has ever been shown over a calico-printing works he will probably have had his attention first drawn to the pre-



FIRST EXCHANGE, 1729.

(From Casson and Berry's "Plan of Manchester.")

paration of the design and the engraving of the copper rollers which are used in the printing-machine. But this is only one of the adjuncts of the trade, and has relation rather to etching and engraving than to the distinctive Lancashire industry. Taking all this for granted, therefore, the first actual treatment of the cloth is mordanting, *i.e.*, getting fixed upon the cloth a mordant varying according to the pattern desired, which, by "biting into" the fibre, shall prepare it for the absorption of the ultimate colouring matter. The mordant, which is faintly coloured, or sightened, is printed on the cloth by the printing-machine, just as the colours themselves would be.

Those who remember the illustration of calico-printing which was given at the Jubilee Exhibition will also remember the feeling of awe produced by the huge machine (p. 13). In principle the thing is very simple, but the nicety to which everything has to be adjusted is marvellous, as the least variation would lead to a want

of correspondence in the various lines and colours of the design. As each roller can print only one colour, there must be an arrangement of as many rollers as there are colours in the pattern, and some of these enormous machines are made to carry not less than sixteen. These are arranged round a large cylinder or drum, thickly cushioned with some soft material. The cloth to be printed is taken to the back of the machine, and, after passing sundry tightening bars, is carried between the drums and the engraved rollers. Each of these last is supplied with colour by its own pad working in a separate pan of colour, and to make the design complete it will be easily understood that the engraving on the various rollers will have to vary just in accordance with the difference in the colour of the lines in the pattern, so that the design is not perfect until it has left the last roller. Those who are acquainted with the clumsy hand-process of block-printing in whatever industry—for instance, in the printing of linoleums and floor-cloths, in which hand-printing is still indispensable in spite of all the efforts to construct a printing-machine—will understand what a degree of nicety and beauty this machine has reached.

After receiving this faint mordant impression the cloth is subjected to the processes of “ageing,” “dunging,” and washing, with the object of removing the acetic acid and sightening colour mixed with the mordant. When this is accomplished, there is left on the cloth little but an almost invisible stain representing the original pattern. On this fabric one single operation produces an almost magic effect. A bundle of prints is taken and plunged into the dye-beck, containing a yellowish-brown fluid—alizarine. After a single immersion the apparently colourless cloth comes out displaying, according to the several printings of the mordant, the most varied effects of coloured patterns—reds, pinks, lilacs, purples, etc.

The operation strikes the uninitiated as perplexingly strange and wonderful; but, so far from being a new or a Manchester thing, it is probably one of the oldest processes practised by man. It was certainly known to the Egyptians, and further than that, we, for our part, do not care to go. After an additional washing or clearing, the cloth undergoes the final finishing processes of starching, calendering, etc., and is ready for its market.

Before we complete this view of the technical side of Manchester trade we must give one glance at a firm equally old and well-established and typical with that of Thomas Hoyle and Sons. Every purchaser of what is known as County velveteen is informed,

as a guarantee of its excellence, that it has been dressed by Messrs. J. and J. M. Worrall, Limited. The reputation of this firm rests on the experience of a century, and is world-wide. Their dyeworks at Ordsall consist of a maze of dye-sheds interspersed among loftier buildings, cover ten acres of ground, and find employment for as many as two thousand "hands" (pp. 16, 20).

Velveteen, in the dyeing and dressing of which this firm takes the lead, is the lineal descendant of the old fustian, the main product of the Manchester looms of



EXCHANGE, WITH ST. ANN'S SQUARE, 1808.

(From an Old Print.)

the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Strangely enough, though it is a commonly known fact, this one name "fustian" covers, in the course of English industrial history, every class of English textile fabric—woollen, mixed linen and cotton, and all-cotton stuffs. In the earliest times the trade of Manchester, like that of England generally, was confined to woollen, and we have already seen at what an early date there is mention in the Salford Charter of the fulling-mills of the Irk. This earliest of our textile industries was confessedly pirated from the Flemish, and with such success that, in the opinion of Professor Thorold Rogers, you might as well have been clothed with a hurdle as with English broadcloth for any protection it gave against wind or

weather. However, whatever their quality, these woollen goods, whether in Lancashire or in Norwich (which was distinctly the home of the craft), were designated fustians, and when, towards the close of the sixteenth century, and about the time when the East India Company was beginning to import cotton from Smyrna and



THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO THE EXCHANGE, 1851.

(From a Water-Colour Drawing by S. Walker, in the Town Hall.)

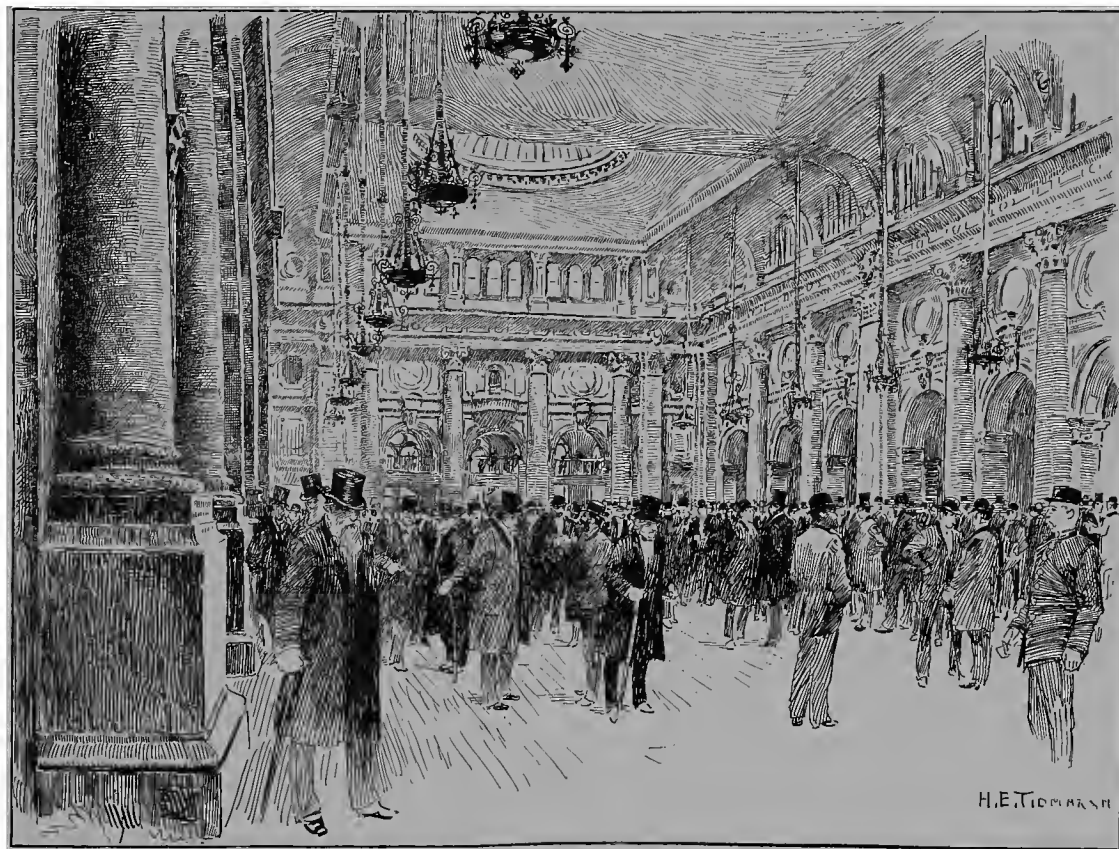
Cyprus, certain Protestant refugees came over from Antwerp, settled in Manchester, and introduced the cotton industry to Lancashire, the new product still retained the old time-honoured name of fustians or Manchester cottons.

Old Humphrey Chetham, the founder, was a fustian merchant, as were his townspeople, the Hartleys, Mosleys, Walworths, etc. — all the typical Manchester names of the time. Bolton was the principal seat of its manufacture, and the chief market was Manchester. But this fustian was no longer even in part a woollen fabric. It was

built up of a linen warp and a cotton weft, and this continued to be the case until the mechanical inventions of the eighteenth century enabled the Lancashire manufacturer to spin a cotton yarn strong enough for warp. Out of this fustian has developed—first, velveret, and then the modern cotton-velvet or velveteen, the first manufacture of which appears to have been about 1780.

The idea of velveteen is that the warp yarns form the back or groundwork of the cloth, and the weft yarns when cut form the velvet-pile. In order to produce the conditions favourable to the raising of this pile, the weft has to be floated loosely over the warp threads, and bound to them at certain intervals, according to

the length of the pile required. The pile is then raised by cutting these weft threads. This cutting is mostly by hand, and is one of the deftest operations eye and hand have to perform probably in any industry (p. 17). It is done by a knife, two feet in length, and tapering to an edge of the extremest fineness. "When the cloth is ready for operating upon, the cutter finds the first adhesive line of the warp, and



"ON THE BOARDS": INTERIOR OF THE ROYAL EXCHANGE.

introduces the guide or guard of the knife into the floated weft which forms the race. Balancing herself upon her right foot, she passes the knife along the race in a straight, undeviating line to the end of the two yards which form the length of the cut, carrying her left foot forward to the distance of a yard in the process. Now, if we consider that in a piece of velveteen twenty-four inches wide there may be from 950 to 1,000 races, and that it takes an hour to cut a two-yard length, it is evident that in her forward and backward movement the cutter must go through a great deal of exercise in the course of a day."

In all these respects, though with infinite improvement in detail, the main principles and features are the same to-day as in the old-fashioned manufacturing and

cutting; for hand-cutting still largely survives, although machine-cutting—a new and important departure—is steadily coming into use. The most considerable advance in *technique* as recorded in the art of the firm with which we are now dealing concerns only the processes of dyeing and dressing. This improvement consists in the evolution of the process of dressing in the grey before dyeing. In the development of this idea it is said that the way was led by a certain John Wilson, of Ainsworth.

As the various manufacturers' cloths arrive at the dye-works, after being cut, distinguishing marks are put upon them. They are then soaked in boiling water to remove any stiffening, then dried and brushed, and shorn by a kind of grass-cutter machine. In the next operation the cloth is singed by passing over red-hot copper cylinders, or gassed in order to remove all fluff and make the pile more solid and more even. A final brushing completes the first set of processes, and the cloth is then in its "dressed-off" state. It is afterwards bleached and dyed, and finally finished by successive processes of beeswaxing and brushing by machinery.

Such is a very brief outline of the industrial processes practised in these great Salford works in the dressing, dyeing, and finishing of velveteen. The amount of technical knowledge lying behind it we should find it hard to realise, summing up, as it does, all the practical traditions of bygone generations of experience with all the theory of most recent science. It has only been by these generations of skilled and progressive endeavour that Lancashire has acquired the lead which she holds to-day in the world's greatest technical and textile industry. The informing spirit in this concern was Mr. James Worrall, who was Mayor of Salford in 1862, and to whom the town owes its improvement scheme of that year, besides the Ordsall Schools, and much more. Besides being a practical dyer, he was in every sense an engineer, having no less than twenty patents bearing his name. When he became head of it the place employed only about two hundred hands. To-day the firm includes within itself the Mordanting Company and Clegg's Court Calico Printing Company, Salford; the old Garratt Dyeing Company, Princess Street, Manchester; the Gaythorn Dyeing Company, Manchester; and the Crimsworth Dyeing Company, Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire. In these various branches there are 3,000 men at work. In February, 1890, the concern was turned into a limited company, the directors being the three sons of the late proprietor.

With a glance at one companion old-established house we must leave the record

of the technical side of the cotton trade. The firm of Richard Bealey and Co. have to-day their bleach-works in Radcliffe, where they had it in the days of George II. The first lease of their bleach-works dates from 1750, and it had been in their occupation previously. In those days they were styled, not bleachers, but "whitsters," a business as old as the cotton trade, says one, but surely much older. When old Falstaff was carried out in the basket, did not merry Mistress Ford bid her men bear it to the whitsters in Datchet Mead?

As to the *personnel* of the firm, Mr. Slugg has presented us with the following:—"The first conveyance just referred to was from James Marsden to William, Richard, and Joseph Bealey. Joseph was the second son of William and the great-great-grandfather of the present head of the firm. Joseph's son, Richard, succeeded to the business and partnership with his brother Ralph, their warehouse being in Bank Street. In 1811 Richard was in partnership with his son Adam, as Richard Bealey and Son, their warehouse being in New Cannon Street. Richard died in 1817, and was succeeded by Adam, who married a Chester lady. She survived her husband, and carried on business as Mary Bealey & Sons. Both she and her husband were strongly attached to the Wesleyan cause, and amongst that body few ladies have been as widely known and as deservedly respected on account of her noble deeds and many virtues. Her daughter married Mr. Percival Bunting, the son of that well-known Wesleyan minister, Dr. Jabez Bunting. Some years since Mr. Bunting, of considerable repute in the legal profession, retired from Manchester to London," and his son Percy William became the editor of the *Contemporary Review* and treasurer of the Wesleyan West Central Mission.

Mrs. Bealey's eldest son, Richard, a county magistrate, succeeded in the direction of the concern.

Besides their warehouse in Bank Street (now 89, St. James's Street), the firm had in olden days its public-house address—the "White Horse," Hanging Ditch. This was in those times a simple matter of necessity. If a manufacturer lived outside the town, he would visit Manchester on certain days—perhaps the three market-days of the week—put up at his inn, and transact business there, and that inn is given in the Directory after his name, along with the ordinary address of the firm.

Intimately associated with this trade custom was another, which has also happily

vanished. Nowadays if a buyer goes the round of the manufacturers, though he has seldom need to do it, he determines his calls just as he is led up or down of the spirit. But in those days of posting and coaching it was a different and more important matter, and the Manchester firms got into the way of employing a kind of amateur detective—"hookers-in," they were called. It was their work to



POST OFFICE FROM MARKET STREET.

hang round the inns and pick up the names of the arrivals overnight, and then by hook or crook get them into their patrons' warehouses, or else hurry off to the warehouse with the name. Many are the tales told of this fraternity. One given us by Mr. Slugg was that an old and a young stager in different lines were talking together when a gentleman passed, on which the old stager said to the other, "That is Mr. So-and-So from Leicester; he is a large buyer in your way." Away went the young one after the gentleman, and, presenting his card, begged him to turn in and look round, with the assurance that they had some goods very cheap which would

just suit him. He did his work so well that there was no resistance, and Mr. So-and-So followed to see the stock. Casting his eye round the first room, he quickly assured the salesman that there was nothing in that room in his line. So with the next, and so with the next. At last the question was put to him, "What line is yours?" "Oh," replied he, "I am David Bellhouse, the timber-merchant."

It is hardly to be credited that such a vocation could bring a man £1,000 a year,



ROAD-MAKING: CHURCH STREET WITH PHILIPS' WAREHOUSE.

but such we are assured by one who knew them in their palmiest days (1830-45) was the case, before the railways put an end to their usefulness and debaucheries.

It used to be said that the firm of William Grant and Brothers—Cheeryble Brothers aforesaid—was the first to employ "hookers-in," and was also the first to discontinue the undesirable practice.

Although many of the general merchant houses which have yet to be noticed started originally as dealers in cottons, and still give a large share of their attention to it, the "heavy trade," or Manchester goods, now forms only a portion of their total business. The development of the fancy trade here has led to the transfer

of much of it from London, and in the ordinary warehouse of to-day "fancies" are as prominent as grey goods.

It may be as well, therefore, before passing to them, to give something of unity to this account of the great Lancashire cotton industry, of which we have been sketching the technical side, by a reference to the Exchange.

Although the Royal Exchange is not coeval with this cotton trade which has made Manchester and become representative of it, its history in reality sums up the essential facts of the growth alike of the trade and the town.

As has been already said, it was in a time of early eighteenth-century expansion that the first Exchange (p. 21) had been built by Sir Oswald Mosley. This earliest 1729 building, a plain, square, unpretentious affair, was erected in the Market-place, on a site directly opposite to the present Exchange. The ground floor was open to the Market-place, and, we are told, suggested rather the idea of a modern market-house than of an Exchange, as, indeed, it proved. For the "chapmen," for whom it was intended "to meet in and transact their business," often found their Exchange occupied by butchers' stalls, and before the place was pulled down it is said to have become the resort of all the blackguards of the neighbourhood.

Upon its demolition, in 1790 or 1792, there was for a time no Exchange, and the merchants met one another in the open air on "Penniless Hill," close by. In 1804, however, they resolved upon "the erection of a handsome building in the Market-place and Exchange Street for the purposes of a commercial coffee-room and tavern." Fifty-pound shares were issued, but not subscribed very readily by the public; by the end of 1808, however, the building was ready to be opened (p. 23). In accordance with the original intention, a "bar" was established, and a bar-keeper appointed, and the business of a tavern, along with that of an exchange-room, was for some time carried out, and the word "bar" is still used to describe that part of the Exchange where the attendants stand.

This building was no sooner erected than it was found to be too small, and its whole history from that day to this has been that of a continual series of extensions. The original site—only a small portion of the present one—was purchased from Lord Ducie, the total sum paid for land, including the purchase of some interests, being over £19,000. To this site was added, in 1836, all Lord Ducie's land "situate and extending from Ducie Place to the new Market," which

was bought for £12,000. On this plot the directors proposed to extend and add a post-office, but the plan, as we shall see, was not carried out, and the extension, as planned by Mr. Alexander William Mills and his partner, Mr. Murgatroyd, who have ever since retained the position of architects to the institution, dealt mainly with the enlargement of the room, which was extended from an area of



THE INFIRMARY CORNER, TOP OF MARKET STREET.

452 to one of 799 square yards. A further extension was begun in 1847, and two years later the Exchange was opened by the celebrated fancy dress ball.

Altogether these extensions cost a matter of £86,000 and were not complete till 1850. It was this enlarged structure that was chosen as the fittest in the town for the reception of the Queen during her visit in 1851, and that drew from her the remark she made to the Prince Consort as they entered, "What a magnificent room!" It had been most gaily decorated for the occasion, and was considered one of the largest in the kingdom, although small in comparison to the present room. Within a month of the date of this visit the Queen signified her pleasure to the Mayor that the building should henceforth bear the title "The Manchester Royal Exchange" (p. 24).

Sixteen years later the whole of this building was pulled down. After one of

those furious "battles of sites" for which the town is not a little famous, it had been determined to erect a new building to cover the whole plot from Exchange Street to Cross Street, and from Market Street to Bank Street, a total area of 6,000 square yards.

For this purpose various purchases were made, among them being Newall's

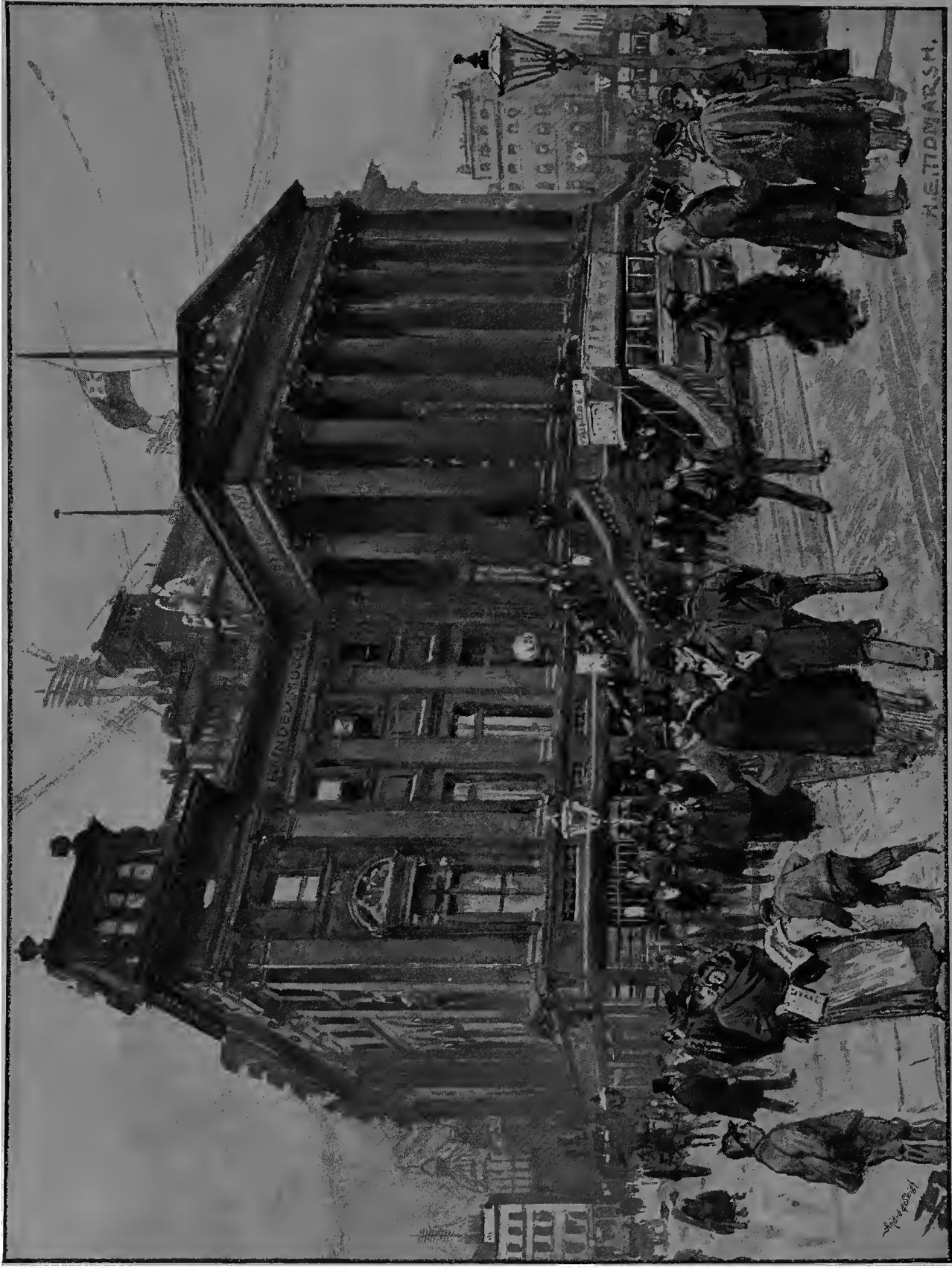


OXFORD ROAD AND LONGFORD MILLS.

Buildings, in which had been located the headquarters of the Anti-Corn-Law League.

In 1866 an Act of Parliament was obtained for the erection of the new Royal Exchange, and on the 2nd of October, 1871, the first portion of it was opened. The area of the new room—the present room—is 4,405 square yards; that of the first Exchange had been 452; while that of 1851, so much admired by Her Majesty, was no more than 1,634 square yards.

Despite this, it is being found necessary still further to enlarge, in order to find room for the ever-increasing body of subscribers. In the course of 1892 there was some talk of removing the fine and imposing Cross Street front (Plate 15), with its octostyle Corinthian portico, and of bringing the body of the building level with the main line of the thoroughfare. The difference between the old and the suggested new



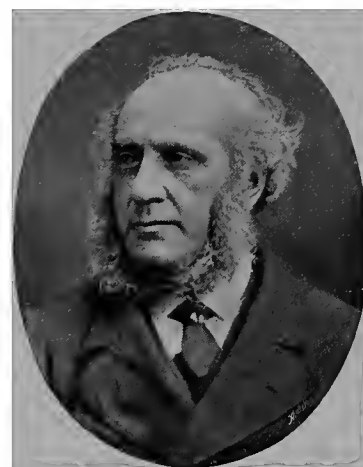
THE ROYAL EXCHANGE, CROSS STREET.

as seen in the cuts which were published at the time was considerable, and one can understand the regret of the architect, Mr. Murgatroyd, at having to spoil so fine a work. Fortunately, at the last moment, the Corporation forbade the scheme.

The portico, admittedly the most imposing in Manchester, is approached by a double flight of steps, and consists of eight massive Corinthian columns, thirty-five feet high. The pediment is filled with the royal arms, and its supporting figures from the old Exchange.

The mention of Newall's Buildings (p. 37) brings to mind one incident in connection with the Anti-Corn-Law movement which transpired in the old Exchange. It is thus detailed in the report of Mr. Wrigley, the "Master," in March, 1834:—

"On Tuesday, at about five minutes after one, and during the crowded time of 'Change, my attention was drawn to the room, from which proceeded very great noise and disorder. I instantly went into the room, where I perceived a gentleman (whose name I was afterwards informed was John Bright, of Rochdale) standing on one of the seats and addressing the subscribers. I immediately approached Mr. Bright, and intimated to him that his mode of proceeding was an infringement of the laws of the institution, and requested him to desist from speaking in the room. He took no notice, but proceeded with his address, amidst cries of 'Go on!' 'Turn him out!' 'Pull him down!' Finding that I could not be answerable for the consequences if he were allowed to proceed, I took the liberty of removing him from the seat on which he was standing. I had no sooner done this than I was elbowed and pulled about by Mr. Bright's friends, who advised him to proceed. Mr. Bright still attempted to go on with his address, and I then informed him that, if he were still determined to proceed, I must give him into the hands of the police. This latter threat had the desired effect, and a cry of 'Adjourn!' was raised, Mr. Bright and his friends leaving the room (in the rush to get out breaking a window), and addressed the people in Ducie Place from a staircase window near the *Times* office."



SAM MENDEL.

(From a Photograph by Franz Baum, 22, St. Ann's Square, Manchester.)

Almost from the first the Manchester Post Office was connected with the Exchange. The first mention of a post-office in the town is in 1687. Forty years

later letters were forwarded three times a week to London, and eight days was the shortest time within which a reply could be got. In 1772 the Post Office was situated opposite Queen Street, St. Ann's Square—at the corner of Back St. Ann's Square and Toll Lane nearest Deansgate. This was during the postmistress-ship of Mrs. Willet, who did the whole postal work of the town by the assistance of two clerks. After being located for a time in Market Street, the Post Office was removed to a low, shabby-looking building at the back of the New Exchange. The old Post Office here spoken of had been put up in conjunction with the second Exchange. During the course of the erection of this latter the postmaster, Mr. Whitelock, made an offer of £80 a year for the occupancy of a part of the building as a post-office. His offer was accepted, and for many years the two institutions were intimately connected. During the extension in 1838 it was proposed to include a new Post Office, to be still in connection with the Exchange, but in the Town Council Richard Cobden carried a resolution condemnatory of the scheme. The Mayor and Corporation recommended the site in Brown Street to the Postmaster-General, Lord Lichfield, and the Lords of the Treasury having finally determined on it, it was erected there, under the borough Court, and opened in September, 1840. In 1875, however, the Chamber of Commerce agitated for better accommodation, and a Bill was passed in April of the following year to enable the Postmaster-General to acquire a site for an extended structure. After long delays, the new building was opened in September, 1884, having been erected from designs by Mr. Williams, surveyor to Her Majesty's Board of Works, at a cost of about £120,000. It occupies the site of the old Post Office, just off Market Street, with one face in Brown Street and another in Spring Gardens, but it is a much larger and finer structure.

So much for the official side of Manchester trade. In the front rank of the general warehouses stands the great business of Messrs. J. and N. Philips & Co., of Church Street (p. 29), a house whose reputation is untouched by any the world over. The Philipsons originally came from Staffordshire, but they have been settled in Manchester since far back in the last century. In 1743 Nathaniel Philips is described as a "tradesman" of Manchester, and his sons, John and Nathaniel—old Grammar School boys—became "merchants" of Manchester. From the elder brother of the tradesman descended Sir George Philips, Bart., and Mark Philips,

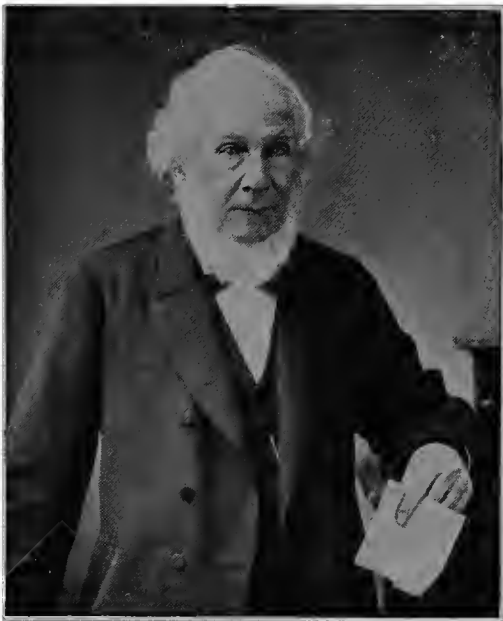
who became the first member for Manchester after the Reform of 1832. Very memorable, too, the latter is as the stout colleague of Neild and Potter in the fight for the Corporation Charter. He was returned for Manchester no less than four times, and it is well known that in one of these contests he beat Mr. Gladstone. His brother was the late Robert Needham Philips, the member for Bury up to the time of his voluntary retirement, when he made way for Sir Henry James. At the time the present house started, most Manchester merchants were either fustian dealers or "smallware manufacturers," and this particular firm occurs first in 1808 as John and Nathaniel Philips, smallware manufacturers, 7, Somerset Street. They are then said to have had a mill in Salford. Some years later they had included and taken in the adjoining warehouse, No. 6, afterwards changing it to No. 14. There they remained till some time after 1832, when they removed to 57, Church Street. At first the warehouse was a small place, situated between High Street and a little court opening out of Church Street; on the other side of the court was Townend's. From this they have gradually extended, absorbing all the surrounding places, until the block they now occupy is deep enough to swallow up any three adjoining blocks, with intervening streets thrown in.

In popular estimation the firm of Messrs. Rylands and Sons stands side by side with Philips's. The whole history of this concern centres in the life of one man, probably for the last thirty years the best-known figure in Manchester trade.

John Rylands was the third son of Joseph Rylands, of St. Helens. The father was a yeoman and handloom-weaver, a man of an indomitably acquisitive nature, who endowed his son with the same in treble measure. In addition to manufacturing in his handlooms gingham, checks, ticks, dowlahs, calicoes, etc., he opened a shop in St. Helens, and in 1824 removed to Wigan. All the sons learned handloom weaving, and when the Wigan shop was opened John assisted in his spare time in the shop, and took a turn at the loom on Saturdays. The youth's first independent venture was made at the age of sixteen, when with his pocket-money he bought the miscellaneous contents of a drawer of trinkets at an auction. Having retailed them at a big profit, he invested in warp and weft, had it woven by his old nurse, and sold the cloth. For two years, 1817-19, he did business in this way, until his elder brother, Joseph, seeing him thriving, offered to take him into partnership. He accordingly joined him and took the travelling, covering

Shropshire, Cheshire, and North Wales, travelling, as was then necessary, on horse-back and with his samples in saddle-bags. Finding his sons going ahead, the father made them overtures, and in 1819 they started in the manufacturing way in Wigan as Rylands and Sons. In 1822 the firm began selling goods in Manchester. For this purpose John was sent over, and opened a place at No. 11, New High Street. His sales during his first eight days amounted to one £20 parcel, and his own account of his frantic chagrin and despondency is very characteristic.

At this time High Street was only in the process of becoming a purely business thoroughfare. In the eighteenth century it was "out of town," and contained the residences of many notables—among them of the Bowers family. Their house was subsequently converted into the "Bridgewater Arms," High Street, which for more than forty years served as the centre of the mail- and stage-coach traffic of the town. It was at this place, it will be remembered, that Southey put up, and Maximilian, Arch-



JOHN RYLANDS.

(From a Photograph by A. Debenham, Ryde, I. W.)

duke of Austria, and such like. About 1827 the place began to be transformed into warehouses. The stables went first, then the part in front. Long before the growth of Rylands's, these portions were occupied for nearly forty years by Messrs. Stretton, Welsh and Co., and their successors, Messrs. Harrison, Griffin and Co., claim still to occupy the hotel buildings. Then other warehouses arose—James Worthington's, at which Alderman Heywood worked as a lad; Brooks's, founders of the banking house of Cunliffes, Brooks and Co.; and Matley's, the calico-printer—a very Radical family. Mistress Matley, we are told, did with her own hands

make the Cap of Liberty which was carried in the affair of Peterloo, which ended in the massacre, as it has since been persistently styled. Here, too, Fort Brothers had their warehouse, very memorable in Manchester history as the first patrons of Cobden when he came to the town. Some years after John Rylands had started here, and when he was making headway, there were only thirteen warehouses in the street, and his own was only a small place, several windows long but of no depth, and employing no more than six

men and one salesman. In 1829 the firm resolved to become merchants, and to add to their own manufactured goods—which alone they had previously sold—Irish and Scotch linens. We are told that this so aroused the bile of certain Manchester houses, who held the monopoly of the linen trade, that they formed an association to “boycott” all manufacturers who dealt with the upstart, but it failed of its aim.

The firm grew, and it would be next to impossible to tell in detail its growth. To-day it occupies in Manchester three immense blocks stretching parallel with Market Street row after row (p. 31). Between Bolton and Bury is situated their Ainsworth cotton-mill, purchased in 1839, and in Wigan the (for a mill) “beautiful” Gidlow works. Besides these, the firm possesses mills at Gorton and the Longford



NEWALL'S BUILDINGS.

(From a Photograph by Mudd and Son.)

Mills in Oxford Road (p. 32), and the Midland Mills in Lower Cambridge Street—though these latter are now used only as a warehouse and a making-up place for ready-made clothing. Of the business ramifications of the firm in London, throughout England—indeed, throughout the whole mercantile world—it would be endless to speak. The total number of hands employed by the concern in one way or another cannot be less than 15,000—a huge, many-sided structure to be, as it is, the monument of the pertinacity and application of one man. In 1855 Mr. Rylands bought the Longford Hall estate, situated in Stretford, and there he built the beautiful hall in which he died in 1888. By the munificence of his widow, Manchester now possesses an absolutely unique memorial of him in the shape of Mr. John Rylands' library,

formerly the noble Althorp collection, purchased at a cost of a quarter of a million, and bestowed as a free gift on the town.

If there is no name more characteristic of mercantile Manchester than that of John Rylands, there is no warehouse better known as a warehouse than that of S. and J. Watts in Portland Street, for "Watts's" is the sight of Manchester (Plate 16).

The members of the firm were sons of a respectable Lancashire yeoman, who until his death, in 1855, farmed a small plot of five or six acres near the village of Burnage, a district which has now become the residential quarter for some of the professional *élite* of Manchester's university. The ancestral house was a long, two-storeyed, red-brick building, a few hundred yards from Mauldeth Hall, the palace of the first Bishop of Manchester, and here the sons learned and practised handloom weaving, along with the eight or ten operatives employed by the yeoman trader. The founder of the firm, John, was apprenticed to a draper in Deansgate, and afterwards commenced a draper's shop on a small scale at the corner of the Parsonage in Deansgate. He then took in his brother Samuel as a partner, and from about 1825 or 1826 the firm was styled S. and J. Watts. Six years later they rented Brooks's Bazaar, in Deansgate, and there the firm was joined by James, who had served apprenticeship to a draper in Ashton-under-Lyne. It is to this firm that is due the credit of developing, about the time we are speaking of, the fancy trade in Manchester. Previously London had held the monopoly of this trade, and it was by means of the enterprise and example of the Wattses that it was diverted. A glance at a modern general Manchester wholesale house will reveal the meaning of the change. In the various departments will be found ladies' hats, of straw or felt, according to the season, trimmings, ribbons, and silks in every form, everything that goes under the name of millinery; and, besides furs and mantles and everything in the way of light drapery, as well as "sundries," which include umbrellas and a thousand other articles. All these are now constituent parts of an ordinary Manchester wholesale house, but two generations since they were unknown, and the warehouses dealt only in typical Manchester stuffs, cloths and small wares, tapes, inkles, braids, etc. In 1835, the firm, finding this wholesale fancy trade increasing enormously, left the retail trade in Deansgate in the hands of Kendal, Milne, and Faulkner, who had up to that time acted as their confidential managers there. From this sprang the great Deansgate fancy house of Kendal, Milne and Co. Turning their attention entirely to the wholesale trade,



PORTLAND STREET: WAREHOUSES OF MESSRS. WATTS AND CO. AND MESSRS. HENRY.

the Wattses took a warehouse in New Brown Street, removing from there in 1852 to a much more substantial building in Fountain Street. From this latter they moved, in 1858, into the princely structure in Portland Street, held to be the finest warehouse in the world. Internal and external appearance alike bear out the boast.

We have already, in speaking of the town's mayors, had occasion to characterise Sir James Watts. His brother Samuel, who died in 1865, was, like him, a man of great and unostentatious liberality, and considered one of Manchester's best specimens of personal worth. His death left in the firm his brother James and the two nephews; but the partners at the present moment are James, son of Sir James, and Edward, son of the original Samuel.

It is probably on account of the presence of this structure that Portland Street is held by outsiders to be the typical street or centre of Manchester trade. One hundred years since, the centre of gravity was the Market-place; then, with the commencement of the present century, Cannon Street for the merchant folk, and a little higher up for the manufacturers; and later, as has been said, High Street and Mosley Street followed in the wake. Although we doubt whether Portland Street is to-day any more the real centre of Manchester than, say, Church Street, or Mosley Street, or York Street, it has an interesting record both of structures and personalities. Here, in 1833, Messrs. A. and S. Henry erected the warehouse they still occupy (Plate 16).

The founder of the firm, Mr. Alexander Henry, was a native of Ireland, who came to Manchester in 1816, to start for himself, at the age of twenty-one. Now, there were giants in those days, and amongst them he took rank. He commenced in Palace Street, but afterwards removed to Spear Street, taking his brother Samuel into partnership. For some years he sat in Parliament, as did also his sons, John Snowdon Henry, who represented the eastern division of the county as a Conservative, and Mitchell Henry, who contested Manchester unsuccessfully in 1867, and afterwards became member for County Galway. Recently the firm has been made into a Limited Company.

It was in Portland Street, too, that Sam Mendel, the merchant prince, one of the most noted names in Manchester trade, had his warehouse (p. 33). The story of part of his extraordinary career is probably well known. His father, Emanuel Mendel, a rope-manufacturer, was a member of the Jewish synagogue of Manchester, which used to meet in his days in a little shabby room in Long Millgate. But

when the son found employment as a lad at Liebert's, in Bow Street, he is said to have been brought to Manchester from Liverpool. He started business off Blackfriars Street, but after he had succeeded to the business of Mr. Robert Gardiner, a Levant merchant, he built a warehouse in Dickenson Street, removing thrice—to Booth



PETER STREET: THE FREE TRADE HALL.

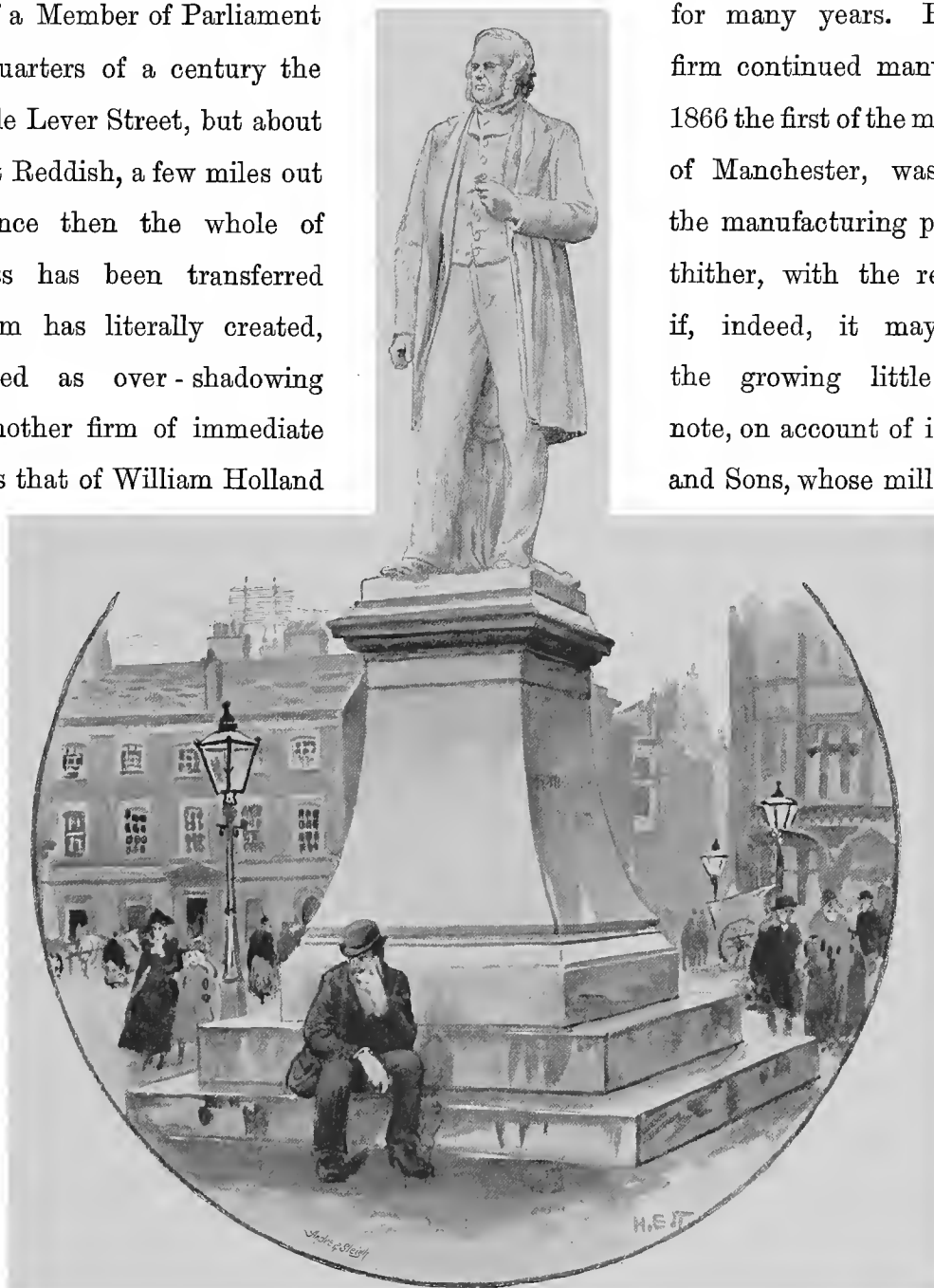
Street, to Portland Street, and finally to his splendid warehouse in Chepstow Street. It is said of him he was never known to do a shabby act, but in the end he felt the frown as well as the smile of fortune. In 1875 his magnificent estate—Manley Hall—was the scene of a memorable sale, and it has ever since been but the ghost of its former self, in spite of effort after effort to galvanise it into life. The estate was cut up into building lots, and the tenantless hall survives only to witness the short-lived greatness of its builder.

With regard to the manufacturing side, it has been steadily deserting Manchester for the outlying districts. A typical instance in which this has occurred is that of the firm owned by Sir William Henry Houldsworth, M.P. The Houldsworths are probably the oldest spinners in, or anywhere near, Manchester. The firm began before the close of the last century as spinners at 58, Little Lever Street, under the style of William

Thomas and Henry Houldsworth, changed more than fifty years later to that of Thomas Houldsworth and Co.—the Thomas being the grandfather of the present member, and himself a Member of Parliament three-quarters of a century the in Little Lever Street, but about mills at Reddish, a few miles out and since then the whole of business has been transferred the firm has literally created, described as over-shadowing

Another firm of immediacy, is that of William Holland

for many years. For nearly firm continued manufacturing 1866 the first of the magnificent of Manchester, was erected, the manufacturing part of the thither, with the result that if, indeed, it may not be the growing little town. note, on account of its person- and Sons, whose mills at Miles



STATUE OF JOHN BRIGHT IN ALBERT SQUARE.

(By A. Bruce Joy.)

Planting now cover a floor-space of ten acres, and employ about 1,000 hands in cotton and worsted spinning. The addition of this latter class of work since 1878 is due to the enterprise of the junior partner, Mr. W. H. Holland, J.P., younger son of Mr. William Holland, J.P., of Miles Planting and The Elms, Higher Broughton.

The Potters have been already referred to. For generations they were a representative home-trade house. From Cannon Street they removed, in 1836, to George Street, with the title Potters and Norris, which was afterwards altered to Potters and Taylor and Potters and Martin. In 1878 the business was purchased by Bannermans', and the old house is now extinct, although its head, Mr. Thomas Bayley Potter, M.P. for Rochdale, still preserves the family tradition.

Extinct like theirs, too, is many another historic house—the old firm of Joseph Thompson and Sons, founded by the grandfather of the present Alderman Joseph Thompson. The founder started as a cotton merchant and yarn and cloth agent in 1818, and subsequently embarked in manufacturing along with Mr. (afterwards Sir) Elkanah Armitage. On the dissolution of this partnership, he, with his brother and another, took the Muskery and Pin Mills in Ardwick, the latter of which, from 1838 onwards, became his exclusive property, and it is said that the late Mr. Hepworth Dixon was once a clerk in their employ. To this mill was added, in 1857, the Sandynook Mill; but in 1878 the family gave up business and sold the mills to J. H. Gartside and Co.

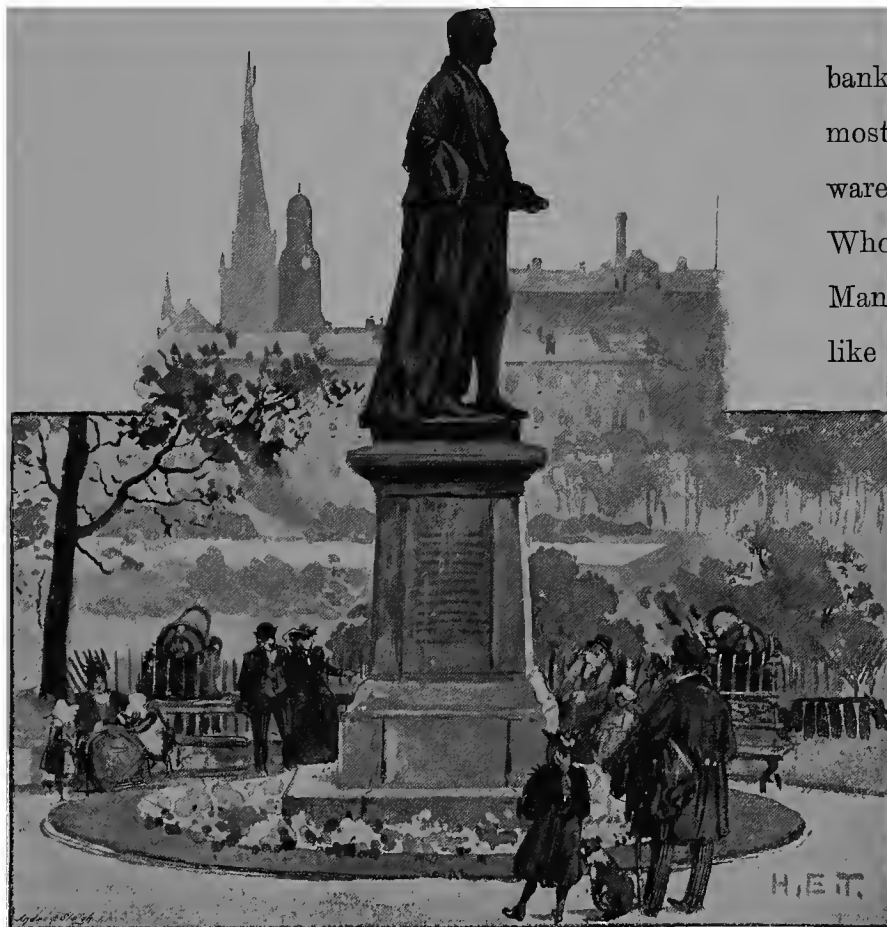
Another such is the old house of S. Fletcher and Co., founded in 1811 by the friend of John Owens and the trustee of Owens College, a well-remembered worthy figure. His warehouse was in Parker Street, and occupied at the time a leading position among the home-trade houses of the city. And there was, too, the equally notable firm, Kershaw, Leese, Sidebottom and Co., which was started before 1810 by Joseph Leese, senior, a linen-draper from Burton-on-Trent. The original style of his firm was Leese and Millington. In 1824 it became Leese, Kershaw and Callender, and afterwards Leese, Kershaw and Co., Kershaw, Leese, Sidebottom and Co., Kershaw, Sidebottom and Berry (1858), and Kershaw, Sidebottom and Co. in 1869. The present lineal descendant of this long line is the house of George J. Sidebottom and Co., of Portland Street, but one other collateral branch, which was re-formed as a limited, under the title of the Portland Street Warehouse Co., came to grief. It went into voluntary liquidation in 1878. The original founder of so numerous a progeny was quite a character in the town. He was a man of method and a believer in it. He used to leave his house, in the Polygon at Ardwick, at seven in the morning, and so familiar a sight was his punctual phaeton that it was styled the "Polygon diligence."

In later life he retired from the firm, and in his old age met with many

undeserved reverses. It was from the above firm that William Romaine Callender retired in 1836 to start the firm of Callender, Bickham and Co. In 1868 this firm, whose present style is Callender, Sykes and Co., of 28, Princess Street, purchased Bazley's two mills. This latter name, too, is of much note in Manchester trade. The Bazleys had been cotton-spinners since 1828, when they opened their mill in New Bridge Street. Thirty years later Mr. Thomas Bazley was elected member of Parliament for Manchester in place of Sir John Potter. In 1869 he was created a baronet for his public services, and continued to represent Manchester as a Liberal until 1876. He was, too, for many years Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce at a time when the rival "Commercial Association" was in existence. A partner of his, in 1838, founded another historic house, under the style of Gardner, Atkinson and Co., of 13, Pall Mall, which afterwards became Atkinson, Tootal and Co., Edward Tootal and Co., and, in 1858, Tootal, Broadhurst, and Lee, of 56, Mosley Street, one of the great representative houses of to-day—calico-printers, cotton-spinners, manufacturers of every class of white, printed, stuff, and fancy dress goods, plain and fancy muslin handkerchiefs, etc. The firm afterwards became a Limited Company. In Nasmyth's Autobiography, Edward Tootal, a chairman of the Trent Valley Railway, and an early patron of Sir E. W. Watkin, is mentioned as one of his earliest and kindest friends when he was just establishing himself as a mechanic in the town, and it was from him that he got his first order—for a new piston for a small steam-engine.

Of all the wholesale distributing agencies, however, probably the most extraordinary and extensive is the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which has its centre in Manchester and its extremities literally in all the earth. It is—so far—the final outcome of the principle of co-operation, and a remarkable outcome, too. In the early days of co-operation, Lancashire was slightly behind London, and when a practical turn was given to the idea, it was by the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers and not by Manchester. But no matter! Between 1826 and 1830 seventeen co-operative societies were established in Manchester and Salford; and some time after the starting of the Rochdale Equitable, William Cooper wrote to Holyoake, "Even Manchester, which is good for nothing only to sell cotton, has created a Manchester and Salford Stores"—the most unkindest cut of all, those words, surely, seeing that it was at Manchester and in the cotton trade that Robert Owen,

the father of co-operation, had found his legs and made a fortune. As a matter of fact, the idea of *wholesale* co-operative supply was first started in the Conference at Manchester in 1832, and, although it was actually tried in Rochdale before Manchester, it was in the latter town that it finally and fully established itself.



STATUE OF SIR ROBERT PEEL IN PEEL PARK.

(By M. Noble.)

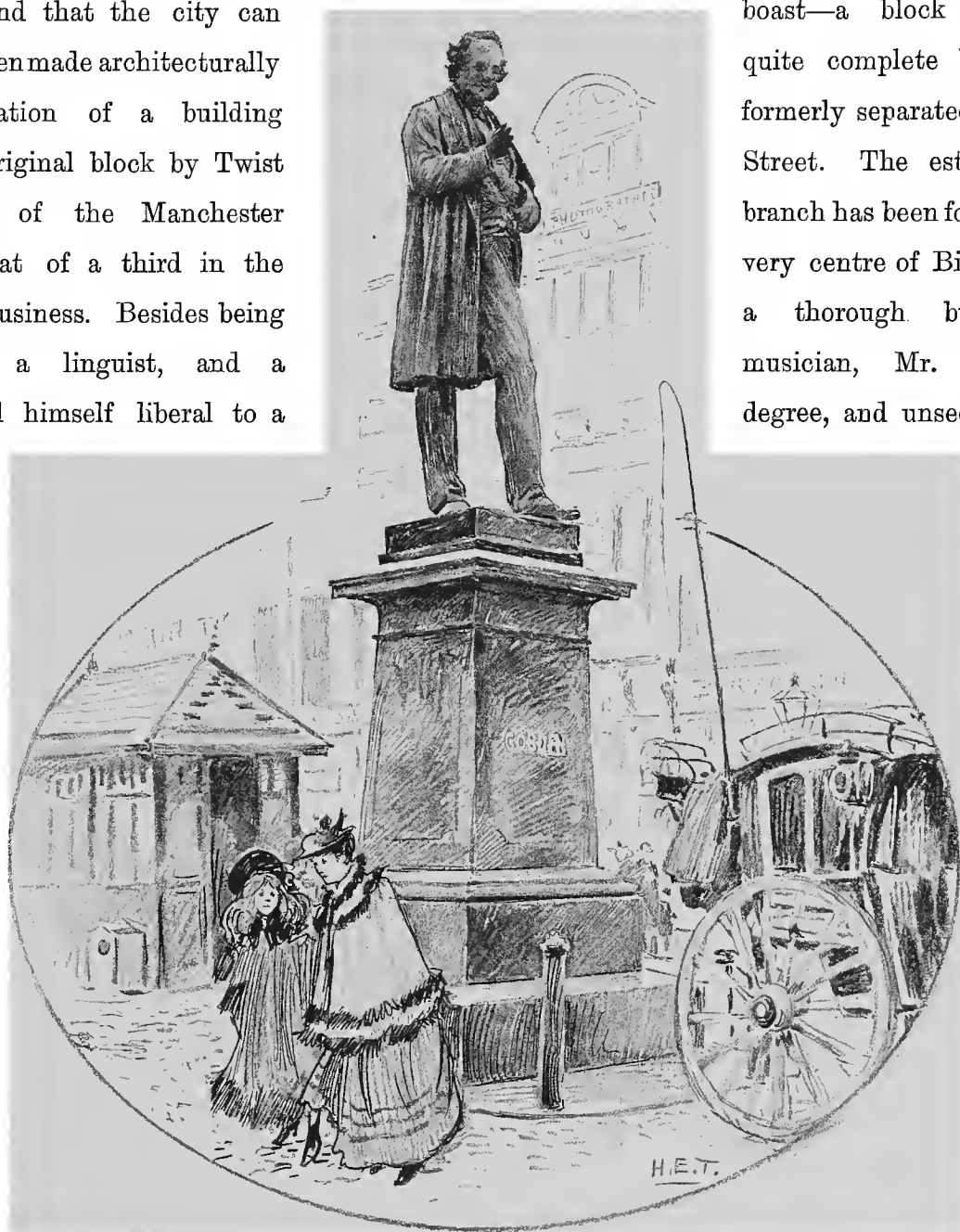
The central offices and banking department and the most stupendous of the warehouses of the "Co-op. Wholesale" are located in Manchester; but for anything like an adequate idea of its totality one would be obliged to travel far and wide—over Great Britain and Ireland, France, Germany, Denmark, and America. Besides working a large shipping business as owners of the Goole and Hamburg and other lines of

steamers, the society has established factories in various parts of England in various departments of trade—boots, soap, biscuits, woollen cloth, etc.

Quite as widely distinguished as the "Co-op." from the ordinary Manchester warehouse of the type with which we have been dealing, but more by its method than anything else, is Lewis's, in Market Street, one of the most recent and one of the best-known houses in the town. It is for Manchester what the Army and Navy or Whiteley's is for London. Mr. David Lewis, the founder of the business, was born in London in 1823. At the age of sixteen he found employment in a Liverpool house, rising within eighteen months to be manager. Subsequently, in 1856, he started in business on his own account in Ranelagh Street, Liverpool, annexing and

reconstructing and extending as his business grew. In 1879 he secured ground in Market Street, Manchester, and here he erected by far the most elegant building of its kind that the city can boast—a block which has been made architecturally quite complete by the annexation of a building the original block by Twistment of the Manchester by that of a third in the ham business. Besides being a man, a linguist, and a proved himself liberal to a

boast—a block which quite complete by the formerly separated from Street. The establish-branch has been followed very centre of Birmingham a thorough business musician, Mr. Lewis degree, and unsectarian



STATUE OF RICHARD COBDEN IN ST. ANN'S SQUARE.

(By Marshall Wood)

in his giving, though a Jew. But to what extent, or how really, was only revealed at his death. By his will he left the whole of his property to two trustees—Mr. B. W. Levy and Mr. George J. Cohen—with an expressed wish that the proceeds of the trust, which at present amount to £200,000, and are expected by the time

they are realised to have increased to £350,000, should be devoted to some scheme of benevolence for Manchester and Liverpool.

Messrs. Richardson, Tee, and Rycroft, of Portland Street, who started in 1848 at 115, Market Street, as linen manufacturers and merchants, with their mills at Barnsley, are still predominatingly a linen house. And in connection with the silk trade there is at least one reminiscence of literary interest to Manchester men. Catherine Winkworth, whose "*Lyra Germanica*" won her the reputation of being, if not the earliest, certainly the first of our modern translators from the German, was the daughter of a Manchester silk manufacturer. In private life it will be remembered in what esteem she was held, equally with her sister Susannah, also a translator and authoress. Their father was a member of the firm of Winkworth and Procter, a concern which occurs as early as 1829 as silk manufacturers at York Buildings, George Street. After many years, however, the firm ceased from Manchester, and from 1863 was transferred to Macclesfield, as one might expect; and the Winkworth sisters were born, not in Lancashire, but in London.

With a last reference to one extinct house of unique interest we must leave the warehouses. It was in September, 1828, that Richard Cobden (p. 45) first came to Manchester. He had previously been a commercial traveller in London; but the firm he represented was disposed of to the employés, and three separate concerns were started as the outcome—Sheriff, Gillet and Co., of London; Sheriff, Foster and Co., of Hebden Bridge; and Richard Cobden and Co., of Manchester. It was in the company of his two partners, that Cobden travelled to Manchester by the "*Peveril of the Peak*" coach, doing the journey in the marvellously short time of twenty hours. They were all young, and none of them worth £200, but they were fortunate in making a good impression on a firm of calico-printers—Fort Brothers, of High Street and Peel Street, and in less than three years that firm was trusting them over £40,000. Cobden's concern, No. 6, Mosley Street, was remarkably successful. During the early years of the Anti-Corn-Law movement, he used to speak quite confidently of his own income as assured, and he was then making, it is said, £9,000 a year. In 1831 they took over from the Forts one of their printing-works, and became producers of their own celebrated Cobden prints.

The movement for the repeal of the Corn Laws is not more intimately associated with the name of the town than it is with that of this man and his friend—John Bright.

Before the movement had formally begun here, Cobden had contributed anonymous papers to the *Manchester Times*, and Mr. Prentice tells us of his intense curiosity to meet the unknown author. "I was not disappointed," he says, "except in one respect. I found a man who could enlighten by his knowledge, counsel by his prudence, and conciliate by his temper and manners. But I had been an actor amongst men who from 1812-32 had fought in the rough battle for parliamentary reform, and I missed in the unassuming gentleman before me not the energy, but the apparent hardihood and dash which I had, forgetting the change of times, believed to be requisite to the success of a popular leader."

Whether Cobden did become a popular leader or not we need not waste time in discussing; certainly no great leader was ever less of a demagogue. In his last years, when he had gone back to live and to die in the beautiful little Sussex village in which he had been born, this cosmopolitan statesman—he whom the crowned heads of Europe hastened to honour—was hardly known in his own village. We remember seeing somewhere an account of the difficulties a would-be visitor had to find his house, of the repeated questions he had to ask—"Where does Mr. Cobden live?" and of the dense ignorance of the villagers as to his very name or existence.

The Anti-Corn-Law movement did not actually begin in Manchester, although in the end it was to become in every sense a Manchester movement. For more than a dozen years before the formation of the League, the subject had been agitated in Parliament by Hume, Whitmore, Thompson, Villiers. Towards the end of 1836 a League had been formed in London, but it was not till the following year that Cobden had his attention riveted to the subject with the force of conviction.

The Manchester Chamber of Commerce having advocated repeal so early as 1826, Cobden easily carried the matter there, but the fight was not to be won on so narrow a basis. After all previous associations had failed, the memorable Anti-Corn-Law League was started in September, 1838, by a meeting held in a little room over the stables of the York Hotel, Manchester. This meeting was attended by seven persons. In October a provisional committee was formed which included the names of most of the historic Manchester business-houses, Elkanah Armitage, John Bright, W. R. Callender, Alexander Henry, James Kershaw, Robert Philips, Thomas Bazley, David Bannerman, Richard Cobden, William Neild, Samuel Watts, and many more. The system of lecturing was adopted, and early in the movement the services of John

Bright (p. 41) as a speaker were obtained. The Brights have long had business connections with Manchester. From before 1858 they have had a warehouse here as they have it to-day, in Portland Street. But it was in his native town, Rochdale, and in 1839, that Cobden was first struck by John Bright's eloquence.

Here we need not tell the story of that movement, worthy though it is of repetition. The beginning did not promise so great a following. "I have a vivid recollection," says Mr. Slugg, "of attending one of the earliest meetings of the



RICHARD ROBERTS.
(From a Painting by T. Ripplingille.)

Anti-Corn-Law agitation, held in the first Free Trade Hall (p. 37), at which John Bright spoke, before he was M.P., and John Brooks. The audience had to stand—there were no seats. The room was not more than half full, and the rain was dripping through the roof here and there. There was a little sympathy and a little enthusiasm—the tide was just beginning to turn—but I often contrast that meeting with the last occasion on which John Bright spoke on the same spot."

When first the "League Room" was opened—a small narrow room in Newall's Buildings in Market Street, now covered by the Exchange—there were usually not more than seven or eight members present, "and the room being very cold we had a red blanket hung up to mitigate the draught of wind." Yet from this room there gradually radiated such an organisation as we have not seen in England either before or since. Branch associations were formed, lecturers employed, pamphlets and circulars distributed. And year after year petitions were drawn up and deputations sent to the successive Governments. This last was a particularly thankless task. In March, 1840, two hundred deputies assembled in London to interview Lord Melbourne. Having stated their object, the repeal of the Corn Laws, his lordship curtly remarked, "You know that to be impracticable." The Leaguers then sought Sir Robert Peel and Sir James Graham with equally unsatisfactory results. The last-named member of the Government was, says Mr. Ashworth, perverse and captious to a degree. "When Mr. John Brooks, the boroughreeve of Manchester, described the distress in the cotton trade, Sir James retorted that the consumption of cotton was greater than at any previous period, and Mr. Thomas Ashton replied that

the dependents were more numerous than at any previous period, and that coarser yarns were being spun. Mr. Brooks proceeded with his address, when Sir James tripped him up again by calling him a Chartist, and Mr. W. Rawson interposed and told Sir James that Mr. Brooks was not a Chartist, but that he (Mr. Rawson) had no objection to be called by that name. My turn came next and I exclaimed against the injustice of restricting the importation of food in order to uphold rents. At this point Sir James called out 'Why, you are a leveller!' and in an insolent tone demanded whether he was to infer that the labouring classes had some claim to landlords' estates. Being somewhat startled I



THE OLD RAILWAY BRIDGE, WATER STREET.

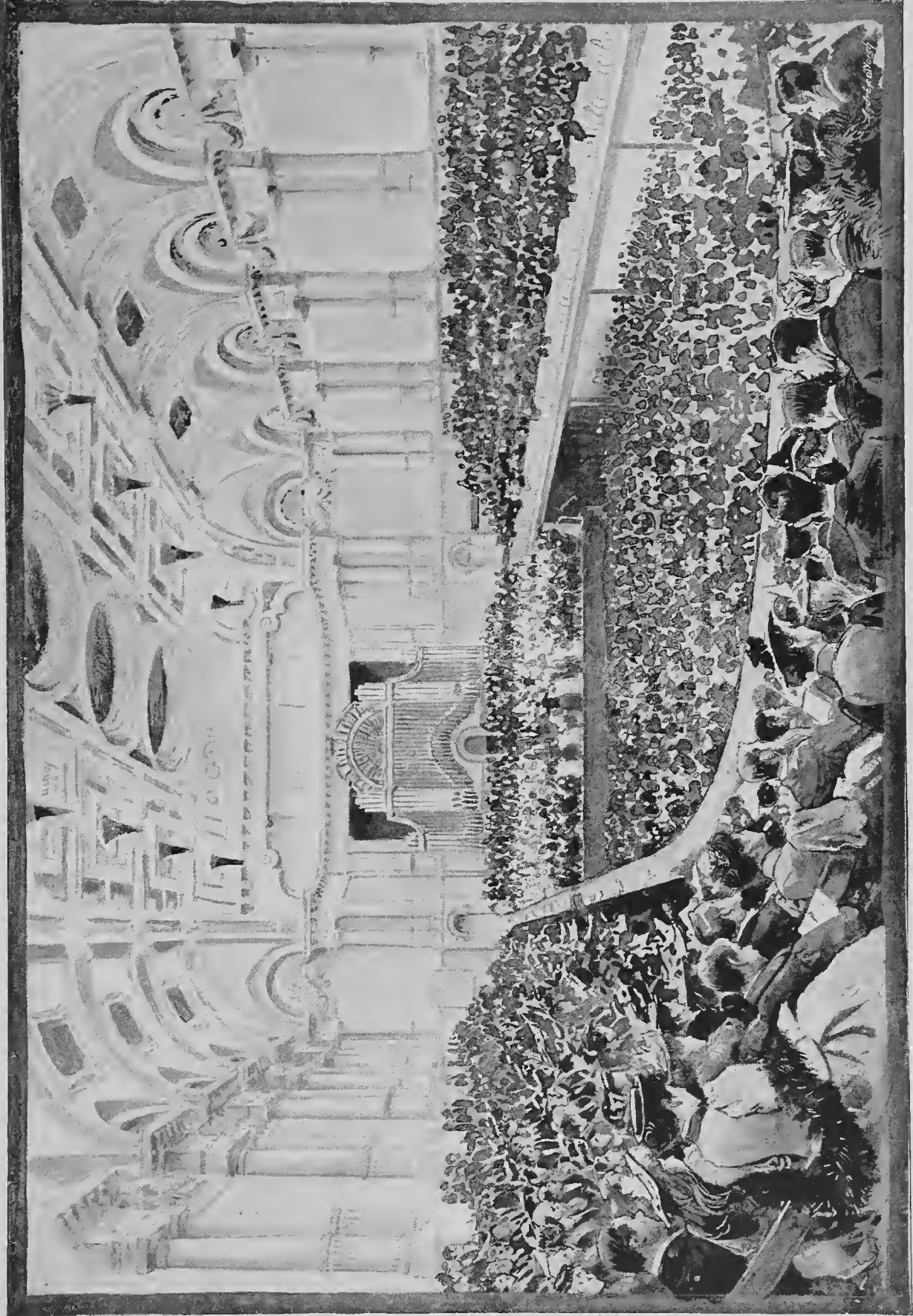
appealed to my colleagues as to whether anything I had said supported such an idea, when Mr. Thomas Ashton called out, 'Go on, Mr. Ashworth, and never mind what he has said.' "

It was after this interview that the deputies passed a resolution to disregard all party politics and to work only for Repeal—unconscious as they were to what a long-drawn fight they were pledging themselves. In 1843, when they erected the Free Trade Hall it was, in their intention, to stand only for a year or so. By that time the end would be reached. But for other four years it was to be the scene of a series of meetings unparalleled in history for numbers, manly determination and enthusiasm. The League met its expenses by voluntary subscriptions, first of £50,000, then of £100,000, and when in the last year of the agitation a subscription of £250,000 was called for, manufacturer after manufacturer rose—it was in the old Town Hall in King Street—to promise his £1,000. Within an hour £60,000 was promised. But the money was not needed. Early in 1846, more than eight years

after the first meeting of the League in Manchester, Sir Robert Peel (p. 44) carried the total repeal of the corn duty, and the gigantic organisation that had won the fight peacefully dissolved.

The Hall itself—a wooden structure at first—which had been the scene and centre of this campaign, was closed in 1852, and four years later the present Free Trade Hall—the theatre of many a notable political and musical gathering—was opened on the 8th October, 1856, having been built at a cost of £40,000 (p. 40, Plate 17).

It is interesting and, doubtless, well known that the Minister who thus in the finish linked his name with that of Cobden and Bright in the great cause was himself a Manchester man. The first Peel—"Parsley Peel" as he is still spoken of round Blackburn—was the earliest to conceive the idea of roller printing on calico, his first pattern being a parsley leaf. Finding he had hit on a gold mine, he gave up farming and started a printing concern at Brookside. His son was Sir Robert Peel, the first baronet and the father of the statesman. Besides his works at Nuttall, near Bury, Sir Robert had others on the Irwell, and a warehouse in Peel Street, the latter worked under the title of Peel, Yates, and Halliwell. Peel Street was then almost a country part of Manchester, and it was considered a venture to place a warehouse there; but so celebrated were the firm's prints that the customers followed, and "in the mornings when the cart arrived, as it did three times a week, from the works, the warehouse doors, in those days approached by an avenue of trees, were besieged by a crowd of drapers. The moment the doors opened at 9 a.m., a frantic rush upstairs and scramble for the prints ensued, each draper making a pile for himself on the floor and then waiting for the entering clerk to come round. No wonder the first Sir Robert is said to have died worth two and a half millions." It was while lodging in Manchester, in the house of Yates, who became his partner in the warehouse, that the first baronet met Nelly, the daughter of Mr. Yates, whom he married when she was only sixteen, and who became the mother of the statesman. We may just add that when, in the course of time, the first Sir Robert desired to retire from business, the whole of his works in the Nuttall neighbourhood were purchased by the Grant Brothers. Not many years before, the three brothers, sons of a Scots herdsman, had passed the place on their journey south in search of employment. They were so struck by the beauty of the situation, that they hesitated whether to seek work there or push on to Manchester. To decide



THE FREE TRADE HALL: ORATORIO NIGHT.

themselves, they put up a stick and agreed to follow the direction in which it should fall. The stick fell away from Nuttall, "so they followed the Irwell."

Now let us turn to the remaining sides of Manchester trade, for it is by no means, as Dickens was told, "all cotton." One of the oldest industries, perhaps older than the cotton, is that of felt-hatting. Of this art Manchester was as distinct a centre for two centuries as it was for cloth, and in the old directories of the town there will probably be found one hatter for each fustian merchant or fustian cutter. It was doubtless because of the ancestral practice of the art of fulling that the industry centred here, for Manchester dealt in wool long before she knew what cotton was, and numerous "walk" or "fulling" mills yet testify to this. The woollen industry has migrated to the hills and over into Yorkshire, but the centre of the hatting industry is still the district near Manchester—Stockport, Denton, and Hyde. The actual manufacturing has, indeed, left Manchester, but the town is still a centre for the hat merchant. Most of the general warehouses include hats in their list, and a small number devote themselves to it entirely. Chief among these is one of the most respectable and steadiest-going old-established houses in Manchester, Messrs. Joseph Wood and Sons, of 50, Newton Street. The firm started in Church Street in a block now covered by Philips's warehouse, removing subsequently to New Brown Street, and then to Wood Street. The three sons of the founder—John, Thomas, and James—were all apprenticed to Manchester houses, but afterwards joined their father's firm, and the younger two still remain connected with it. This firm yet retains the honourable custom of pensioning their old servants. *O si sic omnes!*

Of much greater consequence is the mechanical industry of Manchester. In large it is at once the creator and the creature of the cotton trade. It was not until the mechanical inventions of last century that such a boundless scope was given to that trade, and its expansion immediately called into being a huge array of machine-works. It is strange that in that long series of inventions Manchester had no part. Wyatt, the inventor of roller-spinning, was a Birmingham man; Hargreaves, who first introduced the spinning-jenny, was a native of Blackburn, as was Arkwright of Preston, and Crompton, the inventor of the mule, of Bolton. When Cartwright, a clergyman of Kent, constructed his power-loom, he got his hints from certain merchant gentlemen of Manchester, whom he had incidentally met at Matlock or Buxton. But in no one act in this series had any Manchester native a

hand. It is only in connection with the mule, and at a later date, that any of her townsmen challenge notice. It was not till the mule was made self-acting in principle that it became really serviceable, and this was accomplished by Richard Roberts,

a Welshman by birth, but intimately associated with Manchester throughout his



EXCHANGE STATION AND CROMWELL STATUE.

later life (p. 48). He was one

of the most fertile mechanical geniuses the town has ever

seen. While a young man, working at Taplin, he was drawn for a soldier, and being determined not to serve, he walked to Manchester, and found employment with a wood-turner at Salford, but, hearing that he was "wanted" by the militia officers, he left in a hurry, and made his way to London on foot. There he found employment in the famous works of Henry Maudslay, which has been the training-place for so many of our engineers. He afterwards returned to Manchester, and the number of his inventions, made during the remaining years of his life there, is almost incredible. At the request of the boroughreeve and constable, he constructed an oscillating and rotating wet gas-meter, which enabled them to sell gas by measure. He was the first to construct a planing-machine, and this tool was in general use

until replaced by Whitworth's; and in connection with the cotton trade he had patents relating to nearly every machine in use at the time—for roving, slubbing, spinning, doubling, and the rest. In 1848 the contractors for the Conway Tubular Bridge were threatened with loss by strikes of the men. They applied to Roberts to take up the matter of some different method of punching. He did so, and the result was the patent self-acting punch.

In just the same way it was a strike of spinners, in 1824, that led to his invention of the self-acting principle of the mule. In the course of that disturbance, Mr. Ashton, of Hyde, and a deputation of spinners waited on Messrs.



IN VICTORIA STATION.

Sharp and Roberts to have an interview with Roberts. The inventor cut them short by declaring that he knew nothing of cotton-machinery, and apparently declined the task, and although the masters called on him three times in their despair, he persevered in the same attitude until he had secretly perfected the machine, doing it all in his head, we are told, whilst sipping his tea. It is this machine which has been one of the factors in the making of the firm of Platt's, at Oldham, one of the greatest machine-shops in the world. But, in the first instance, the fruits were reaped by Roberts and his partner. In 1821

he had entered into partnership with Mr. Sharp as Sharp, Roberts and Co., engineers, of Globe Works, Faulkner Street. They afterwards extended and added the Atlas Works in Great Bridgewater Street. When, in 1845, the partnership was dissolved, Roberts took the former works, with the style of Richard Roberts and Company, but eventually came to grief, as his talents were purely mechanical and not commercial. The Bridgewater Street Works were taken by Sharp Brothers and Co., which, in 1858, became Sharp, Stewart and Co. Here the firm remained till 1888, when the business was transferred to Glasgow, after being formed into a Limited.

Among the many great mechanical firms of Manchester, none have had a more representative career or a more intimate connection with all the industrial developments of the place than this last named. When the era of railways was beginning, the firm seized the opportunity by the forelock, and threw itself into the new industry. Up to the time of their removal to Scotland they had turned out, it is said, not less than 3,400 locomotives of every imaginable type, and the great modern works of the same kind—Beyer Peacock's, The Gorton Carriage Co., etc.—are to be regarded as their successors in this industry.

It is commonly known that the real inauguration of the railway system—the most revolutionising development of modern times—is to be attributed to Manchester and Liverpool. The first connection between Liverpool and Manchester was by water, then it was by rail, and now they have returned to the canal. Under the tyranny of the old canal companies, when they had grown fat and pursy, the trade of the two towns lay almost as under a blight. It is on record that it occupied more time to get goods from Liverpool to Manchester than from New York to England and this, too, in the days of sailing-ships. In the matter of tariff also the canal companies were supreme and unapproachable. Not one jot or tittle would they abate, and this was their attitude up to the moment that the first railway became what the *Times* calls “a fact,” although far-seeing eyes could discern the change that was impending.

“They will last my time,” said the old Duke of Bridgewater, speaking of his beloved canals; “but I see mischief in those — tramways.”

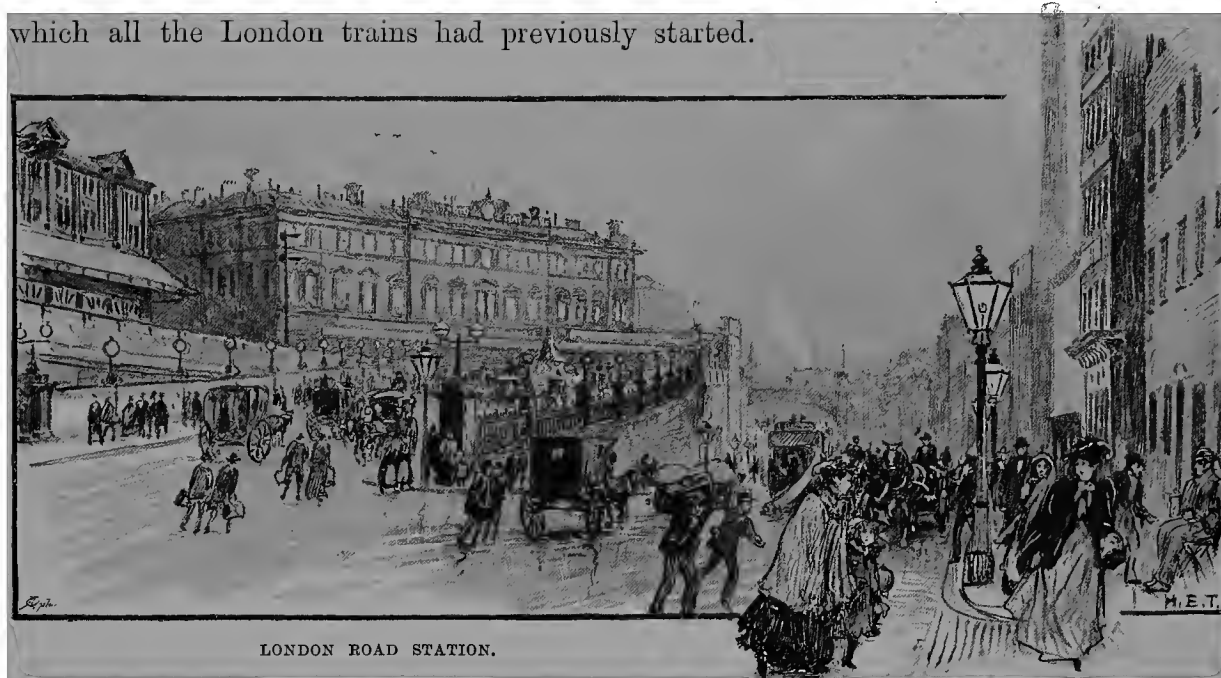
Although the ground between Liverpool and Manchester had been surveyed for a railway as early as 1822, it was not till 1829 that a prospectus of the company was

issued. The fight the projectors had to make was little short of heroic. Interests were hostile, and the public and its wiseacres were incredulous, nor were the engineering elements at all assured. Up to this time only one railway had been used for passengers—that between Stockton and Darlington—and in that case the carriages were drawn by horses. The only use to which steam-engines had been hitherto put was in drawing coal-waggons, and numberless were the failures on record even in this. When the line was approaching completion, therefore, the directors of the company offered a prize for an engine. The conditions were that it should draw three times its own weight, and run at ten miles an hour. The competition took place at Rainhill, in October, 1829, and four engines turned up. In the course of the trial one got its boiler burst, two others broke down, and the prize was finally adjudged to Stephenson's "Rocket," which filled all beholders with breathless bewilderment by running at fourteen miles an hour with a load of seventeen tons. The driver of the "Rocket" on this memorable trial was Charles Fox, afterwards the builder of the Crystal Palace.

When completed the railway terminated at the Manchester end at the corner of Water Street (p. 49) and Liverpool Road. The booking-office was placed in Market Street, and in booking, passengers had to give their names and addresses, which were entered on the way-bill. "After a hot contest, it was agreed that on Sundays trains should run only when people were presumed not to be in church. During the five or ten minutes that the passengers were taking their places—not rushing, as now, like a forlorn hope, into the deadly breach, but placidly and with dignity—a tune was played on the bugle, and on the train pulling up at Eccles the villagers brought Eccles cakes." There were at first no fixed stations on the route—the trains stopped according to the convenience of the passengers, as they are said still to do in the Isle of Man.

The history of this later growth is of some local as well as much general interest, although in the actual process itself Manchester seems at first to have lagged behind somewhat. For instance, the idea of a connection with London was pushed much more energetically by Liverpool than by Manchester folk. The Bill for the Grand Junction Railway, which was passed in 1833, was carried by Liverpool men. It provided for the construction of a line from Birmingham to Warrington, and by that means to Liverpool and Manchester. The line was opened in July, 1837, and in the following year the connection with the South was completed by the opening

of the line from Birmingham to London. The most important advance on this achievement, as far as Manchester was concerned, was the construction of a more direct line to Birmingham *via* Crewe, so as to avoid the long *détour* by Warrington. It was in connection with this development that London Road Station was erected. A temporary station had previously stood near Travis Street; but in 1839 the "Manchester and Birmingham" got powers to bridge over Store Street, in order to form their station and to make a carriage way down to Piccadilly. This involved pulling down the old London Inn and the London Road Market, and when complete the station took the place of the Liverpool Road Station, from which all the London trains had previously started.



It is from the series of railways just named that has sprung the greatest railway company in the world—the London and North Western. The years of railway mania (1845 and 1846) were also years of railway amalgamation and incorporation; and it was in those times, and by means of successive absorptions, first of the "Liverpool and Manchester," then of the "London and Birmingham," then of the "Manchester and Birmingham," that the old Grand Junction at last, in 1846, became the London and North Western.

The second of the great stations now existing in Manchester was the outcome of a joint effort. In 1838 the "Manchester and Leeds" Railway proposed to the "Manchester and Liverpool" a connecting line from Collyhurst to Ordsall Lane, with a station midway at Hunts Bank. This—the first Victoria Station—was opened

in 1844, and though at the time possessing only one platform, was considered one of the largest in the kingdom. When the connections with this station had been completed, the "Manchester and Leeds" abandoned their old Oldham Road Station for passenger purposes, as did also the "Manchester and Liverpool" their old Liverpool Road Station; and from that time forward until 1884 Victoria Station remained the joint property of the London and North Western (as successors to the



SIR JOSEPH WHITWORTH AND CO.'S WORKS, FROM THE RAILWAY.

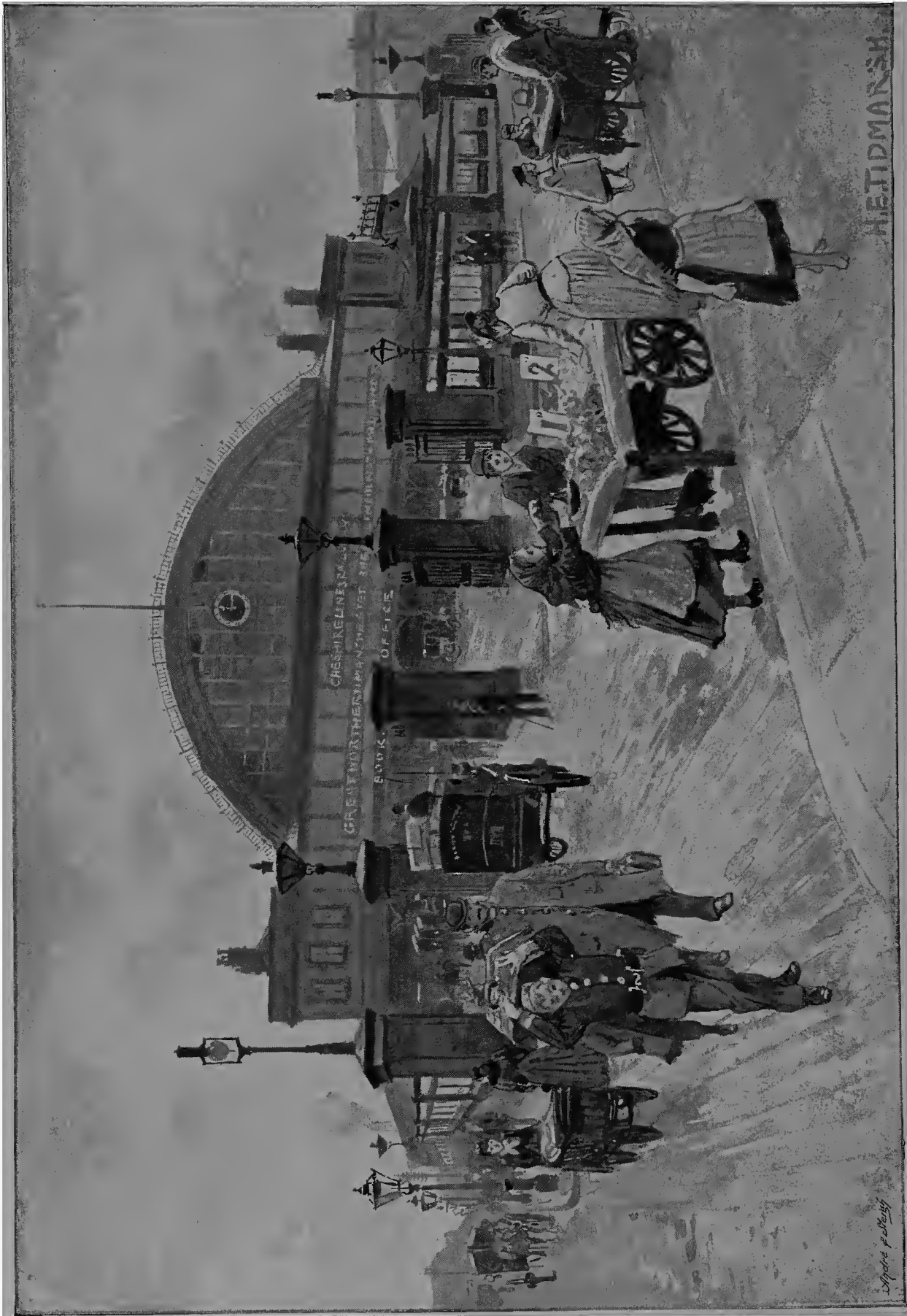
"Manchester and Liverpool"), and of the various lines which have grown up by amalgamation with the "Lancashire and Yorkshire." The nucleus of this latter system was formed by the old "Manchester and Leeds" Co., which between the years 1845 and 1850 had been carrying on a process of steady extension under the chairmanship of Henry Houldsworth, absorbing the Manchester, Bury, and Rossendale, and a network of minor lines. The immediate result of the process was a great weakening, and it was a long time before the "Lancashire and Yorkshire" obtained the position held by the old "Manchester and Leeds." That time of trial, however, has long since been passed, and the company now stands substantial and strong. Correspondingly, a great development has taken place in the station accommodation. Soon after 1880 the London and North Western people commenced the erection of a new station, removing from the old Victoria where they had most insufficient quarters. Simultaneously, the "Lancashire and Yorkshire" undertook the extension of Victoria Station, and it has been accomplished at an immense cost under the direction of the chief engineer of the company, Mr. William Hunt.

The present station covers an area of over 52,000 square yards, and possesses

no less than thirteen platforms and four carriage and two foot approaches leading to Corporation Street and Strangeways (p. 53). Those who remember the old approach from Corporation Street over the narrow foot-bridge across the river and up the steps, will be devoutly thankful their eyes have been allowed to see such salvation. “ ’Twas joy in such a time to be alive,” says the poet; “ but to be young was very ”—necessary.

Exchange Station (p. 52), to which the London and North Western people moved when they vacated Victoria, was opened in the same year (1884) in which the Victoria extensions were completed. It is a finely harmonious structure in the Italian style, erected by Robert Neill and Sons, under the supervision of the company’s engineer-in-chief, Mr. Francis Thomson, and of the resident engineer, Mr. J. G. Brickenden. As the building faces the river, it involved work of much difficulty in the way of river walling and bridging for the purposes of the requisite approaches from the Exchange and from Strangeways. Two handsome bridges have been flung across the Irwell, and as we stand on the southernmost and gaze down on the old Salford Bridge so far below, we wonder how it can ever have been accounted so greatly of. In consequence of the opening of the second bridge leading to Strangeways, room has been made for further extension by carrying the waiting-rooms at the end farther out to the river. This end of the station, which rises four storeys high, contains the various offices of the district superintendent, Mr. G. E. Mawby, and others.

Besides this Exchange Station, the London and North Western have now part ownership of the London Road Station, where in 1881 they opened an extension which had cost them over £300,000. This station has had a most remarkable history. The Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Co. was formed during that same period of amalgamation, 1846. For the first eleven years of its life it existed to a great measure by means of an agreement with the London and North Western; but in 1857 a rupture took place. The Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire made an agreement with the Great Northern, and thus obtained independent access to London. Then ensued one of the keenest railway wars we have ever seen. At one time the excursion fare to London was as low as 5s. At the same time litigation was entered into over the possession of London Road Station, and it was not settled until the following year, when the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire obtained



THE CENTRAL STATION.

their share of the "miserable shed," as it then was, under the terms of an agreement providing for its enlarging and rebuilding. This was accomplished—after some pressure from the town—in 1866, and London Road now offers probably the handsomest front and appearance of all the great Manchester stations (p. 56).

The latest of all these four stations is the Central, now the home of the Midland Co. (Plate 18). It has sprung into being in a rather unusual way.

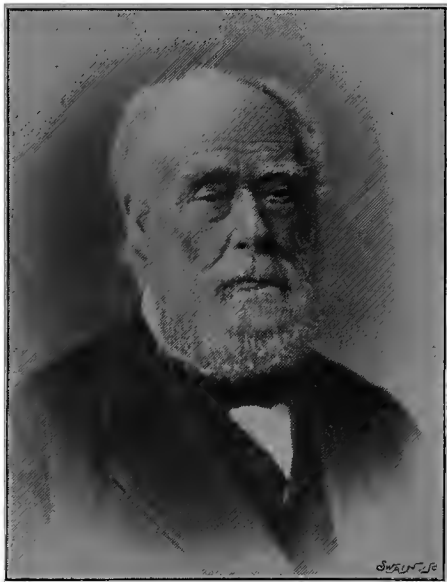
The Midland is the latest in development of all the great English railway companies. To begin with, it was strictly what its name implies, a *Midland* railway; but within easily rememberable time it has pushed its connections north and south, and established itself with unequalled energy as the great main line alongside the London and North Western. As far as the Manchester and London connection is concerned, this was accomplished by the junction of the central or midland system from Bedford to London on the south, and on the north by the connecting of the Rowsley and Buxton lines with the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire system at New Mills. This was effected in 1866, and for years after that the Midland traffic came to the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire terminus at London Road. By means, however, of that peculiar and intangible corporation worked under the name of the "Cheshire Lines Committee," the Midland secured independent access to Manchester. The latest development of those self-same oddly-named Cheshire lines was an extension in the Liverpool connection from Cornbrook to Garston, and by means of the extension at the Manchester end from Cornbrook to Windmill Street, the present Central Station, the Cheshire lines, practically synonymous with the Midland, tapped the very centre of Manchester; and by the construction of a short connecting line between Cornbrook and Stockport by means of the "Manchester and South District," the Midland obtained independent access to the Central, which may now be regarded as purely a Midland terminus. This fine station, remarkable for its noble size and the sweep of its roof, was opened for traffic in 1877.

For some years after its completion no further development of note took place in the railway systems of the Manchester district; but a much-needed last link has been forged recently by the creation of the Manchester Suburban Railway. This line affords a connection between the Central and the Fairfield and Gorton Stations on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, thus putting the Oldham and Rochdale district on the direct line to Liverpool, besides acting the part of a

circular suburban railway—a most welcome extension, though greeted with as many Fallowfield groans and tears as St. John's Wood artists and cricketers were prepared to shed and spend over the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire London scheme.

Besides Sharp, Stewart and Co., the development of railways has given rise and character to many other Manchester engineering firms—the Gorton Carriage Co., Beyer Peacock and Co., etc. The works of this latter firm at Gorton were founded in 1854, but have grown to such an extent as to cover twenty-two acres of ground. In busy times the firm employs over 2,000 men, and can turn out

from 150 to 200 engines per year. Its lately-deceased head, Mr. Peacock, was a well-known name and figure in the town.



SIR JOSEPH WHITWORTH.

(From a Photograph by Elliott and Fry, London.)

A still more historical name in connection with Manchester engineering is that of Nasmyth. When this distinguished man first started here as a mechanical engineer, he rented one flat of a factory in Dale Street, in the very heart of the town. But he was driven from there by growing business, and by the fears of the proprietor of the premises, one of his engines having driven through the floor, and made a sad mess of a crockery-shop beneath. In 1830 he accordingly removed to

Patricroft, where he established the Bridgewater Foundry, with the style of Nasmyth, Gaskell and Co. It is still carried on there as Nasmyth, Wilson and Co., although the inventor retired from business in 1856. Previous to his retirement he lived in a cosy little cottage within five minutes of the works and with a garden stretching down to the Bridgewater Canal. It was in this garden that he had erected his telescope, and there one night he was detected by a passing boatman as the Patricroft ghost. His firm, like so many others, was converted into a limited liability company some few years since.

Engineers need hardly be told that they are indebted to Nasmyth and his firm for the steam hammer, besides much else. When the directors of the Great Western Company were desirous of building a large steamer, the *Great Britain*, they found

that no forge in the country could undertake the forging of the paddle shaft, which was to be thirty inches in diameter, and the engineer wrote to Nasmyth in despair:—"What am I to do? Do you think I might dare to use cast-iron?" Nasmyth got out his "scheme-book," and in half-an-hour his sketch of a steam-hammer was complete, and he wrote back assuring his friend that the shaft could be forged at last.

In one respect Nasmyth seems to have been singular. He escaped the military fever which took possession of all the mechanics of the "forties." For even Roberts, who had run away from being a soldier in his youth, is said to have once waited on Louis Napoleon with details of an invention for blowing down Sebastopol, and in later



THE MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANK, SPRING GARDENS.

times two of the most famous engineering firms of Manchester—Fairbairn's and Whitworth's—devoted themselves in a great measure to the production of armaments.

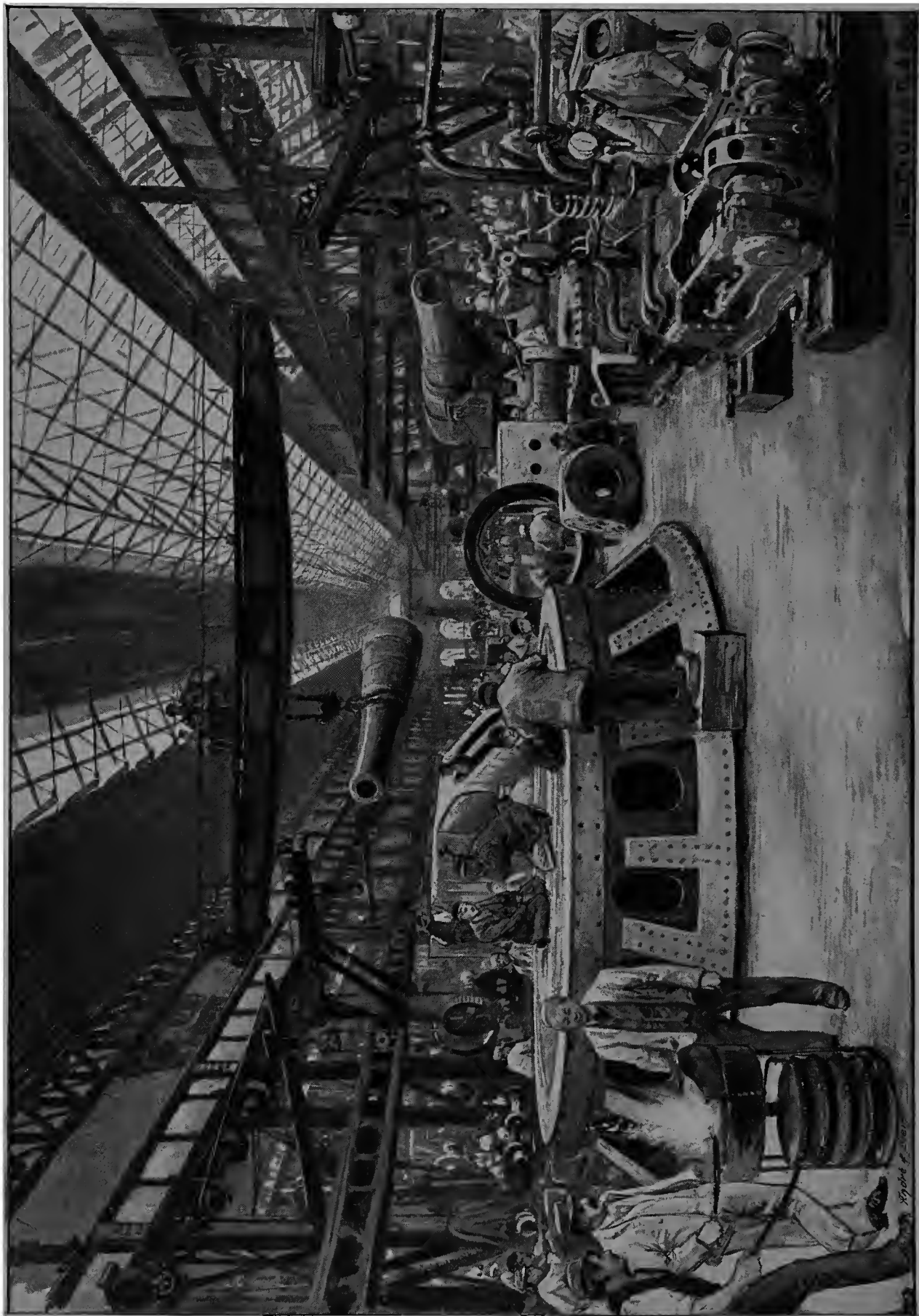
The former of these works started in Manchester with the manufacture of cotton machinery, Fairbairn being then a simple mechanic in partnership with an old shop-mate, James Lillie. The business rapidly developed and rapidly changed. Ship-building, bridge-building, and fort-building became the chief trade of the firm, and

in 1870 Sir William Fairbairn could state that he had designed and built nearly 1,000 bridges, among them being the tubular bridge over the Menai Strait. In the construction of the latter he was associated with Stephenson, an intimate friend of his from the time when they were at neighbouring collieries, and when Fairbairn would go down to mind his friend's engine, while Stephenson went ballast-heaving, to "make a bit extra." After Sir William Fairbairn's death in 1874 calamity overtook the concern, and to-day we miss it from the accustomed place, though what has become of it all seems somewhat of a secret.

The fall of Fairbairn's left Whitworth's lord and king. The works at Openshaw are *the* sight of Manchester, only Manchester is not allowed to see. But, great as they are, they are not the only or the most permanent monument to the name of the founder (pp. 57, 60, Plate 19).

Sir Joseph Whitworth was born at Stockport in 1803. In his youth he learned cotton spinning, but having a strong taste for mechanics, he gave the spinning up and found employment as a workman at Creighton's in Manchester, at Maudslay's in London, and elsewhere. In 1833 he came to Manchester, rented a room with steam power, and started as "Joseph Whitworth, tool-maker, from London." To-day the concern dwarfs anything we have as yet seen in that way. Of his inventions—his true planes, and the standard pitch, etc.—it would be difficult to express sufficient appreciation. They have literally reconstituted the mechanic art, fine and well-endowed though it thought itself previously. In another department his work has not met with the recognition it deserved. It was in consequence of an invitation from the Board of Ordnance in 1854 that Whitworth began his experiments bearing on the construction of guns. The outcome was the Whitworth muzzle-loading hexagonal rifle, which entirely displaced the Enfield, and was itself displaced in 1871 by the breech-loading Martini-Henry. He afterwards applied the same principles to the construction of guns, with the well-known result in the trial at Shoeburyness between his gun and Armstrong's. Notwithstanding the superiority of the Whitworth gun, it was not adopted by Government, possibly, it is said, because of the inflexible attitude and plain-speaking adopted by Sir Joseph Whitworth. By common consent the gun is held to have been the most perfect ever made.

Besides all these mechanical inventions, in which he was largely dependent on Bodmer, the eccentric German—who so detested to hear a man whistle at his work,



BAY IN SIR JOSEPH WHITWORTH AND CO.'S FITTING SHOP.

and who is held to have been one of the most extraordinary mechanical geniuses Manchester has ever seen—Sir Joseph Whitworth will be long memorable for his pure interest in science and in the condition of his fellow men. During his lifetime he gave £100,000 for the founding of the well-known Whitworth scholarships, and what Manchester has gained since under his will we all know—the Whitworth Park, the donations to the Manchester Museums, to the Technical School and the Whitworth Exhibition, besides much more. In turning his works into a company, too, he adopted a system by which the workmen could become profit-sharers.

From the nature of the case it is not possible to adopt a departmental system at Openshaw, but roughly the work falls under three heads, as it deals with forged steel, cast steel, or cast iron. For dealing with the first, there is a separate bay, 400 feet by 100, containing the Siemens furnace, and the plant for the patent fluid-pressure process for the forging of guns, propeller shafts, and anything in which an absolutely faultless material, free from air-bubbles, is a necessity. It is this process of hydraulic pressing the molten metal for which the firm obtained renewal of its patent. In the next stage the work passes into an adjoining bay, 400 feet by 250, containing the heavy forge, the hydraulic presser, and the huge steam hammers, and what not. It is in this department that the tool-hardening and grinding is pursued. Afterwards the work passes into the machine or finishing shops, which are comprised in four bays, each 50 feet wide, and 650 feet long, to which an addition has been made, 750 feet by 100 feet, the latter for the building-up and boring of guns. The guns, or hoops rather, are first bored in the rough, then fine-bored in a lathe, the bed of which extends to a length of 130 feet, and then rifled. The rifling is done by a large shaft, bearing one small steel cutter, an insignificant little knob of steel, half-an-inch square, on the surface. As the shaft enters the gun, a slight twist is given to it, so that by the time it has reached the end of its journey, seven-eighths of a complete turn have been made. Only one groove is cut at a time, and each gun bears fifty-eight of them, so that the length of the operation can be imagined.

This description applies to the 68-ton guns made for the British Admiralty, the groove of which is very shallow (a twentieth of an inch) as compared with that adopted by Foreign Powers.

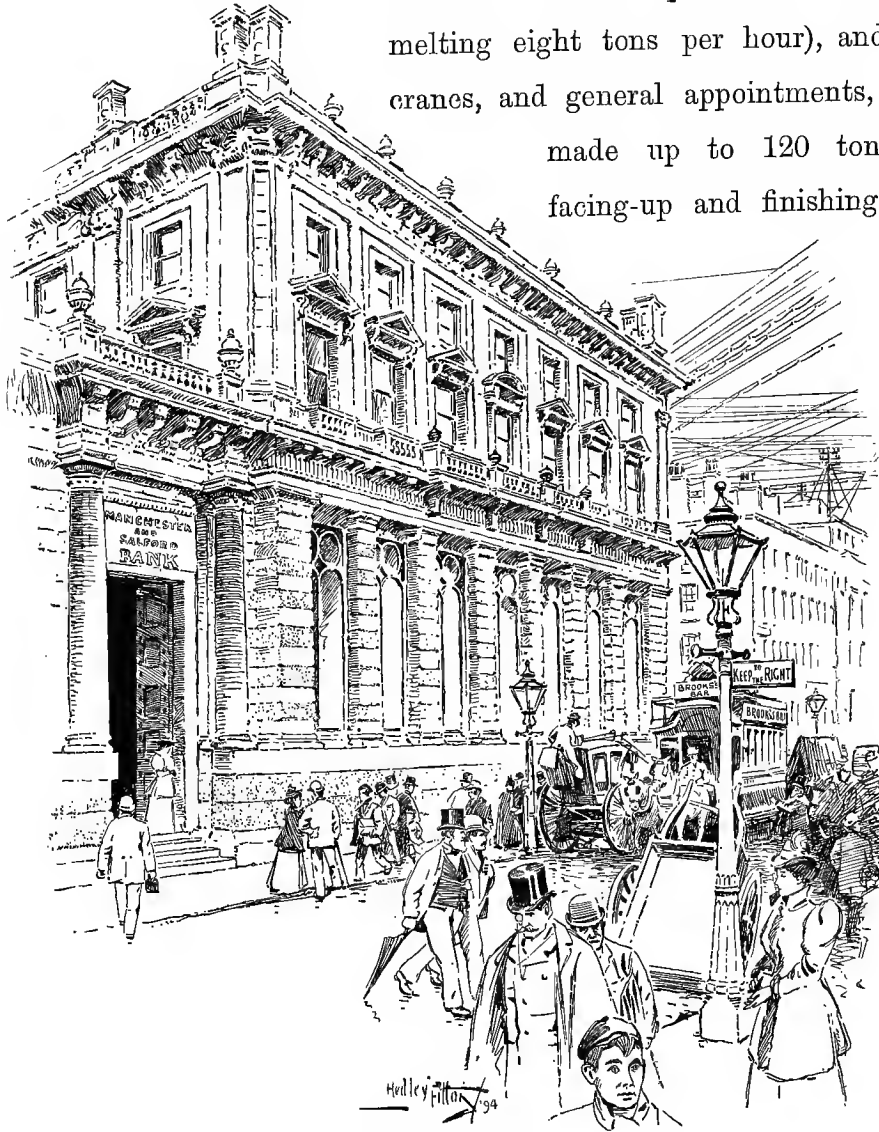
Another department—the Field-gun Department—is devoted to lighter ordnance—field-guns, quick-firing guns, and shot-barrels for the trade. Besides this ordnance

work the firm executes every kind of engineering. The cast-steel department is devoted to parts of marine engines, gun mountings, and general machinery where lightness and strength are required, and the cast-iron for the ordinary general mechanical work. The foundry for this last is 250 feet by 200 feet broad. It

contains three cupolas (the largest being capable of melting eight tons per hour), and overhead travellers, job cranes, and general appointments, enabling castings to be made up to 120 tons in weight. All the facing-up and finishing of this varied mass of

work is done in the machine-shops referred to. One huge horizontal lathe, 50 feet in diameter, is used for facing-up turret-beds for ironclads. Overhead in all the bays are huge travellers capable of lifting from thirty to one hundred and fifty tons (Plate 19).

Quite a special branch of the firm's work is the production of gauges, standard rules, etc., for every species of measure-



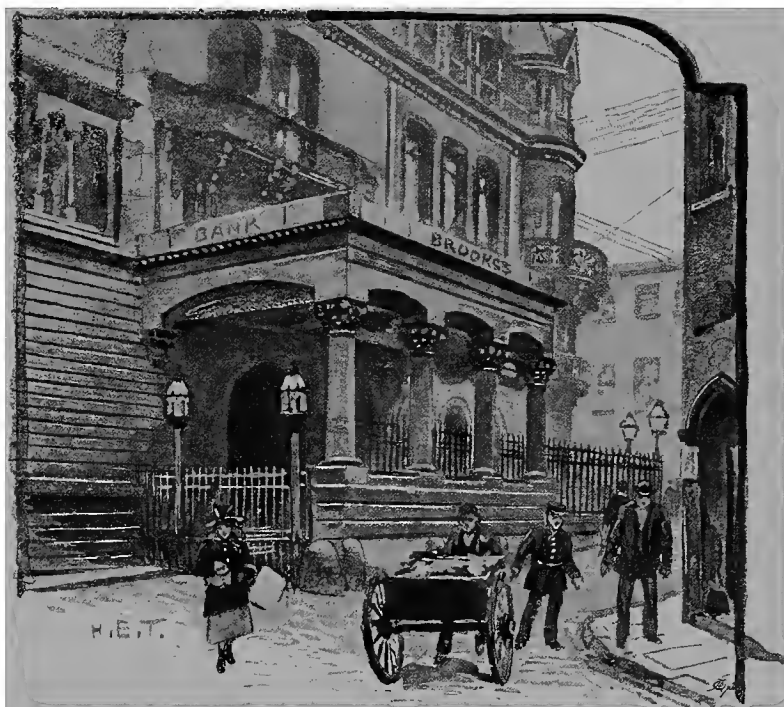
THE MANCHESTER AND SALFORD BANK, MOSLEY STREET.

ment—the gauging of wire, the pitch of screws, etc. And so fine is the work of this department that it has had to be separated from the rest of the building, in order to keep it at an even temperature. Measurements are here daily made to the $\frac{1}{1000000}$ th part of an inch; and there is even a machine—a toy of Sir Joseph's—by which measurement can be made to the millionth part of an inch; but this, you are told, is carrying things rather fine!

As to the rest of the place, the tall buildings for tool-hardening and shrinking; the annealing shops; the testing-rooms, physical and chemical; the large dining-hall for the men, capable of seating 1,000; and the reading-room, managed by the men's own committee, reference need only be passingly made. The whole works cover an extent of over forty acres, and find employment for 1,800 men.

As to the totality of the engineering enterprise of Manchester, at the head of which stands this magnificent concern, it is impossible to speak exactly. In the city and district there are close upon two hundred works engaged in every species of engineering work — Brooks', cotton - spinning machinery works; Crossley Brothers', the manufacturers of the Otto gas-engine; Galloway's, the boiler people; Mather and Platt's, of Salford; W. H. Bailey and Co.; Craven Brothers; Lancaster and Young; Sir James Farmer; Thomas Robinson and Sons, and many others.

Galloway's, the largest boiler-makers of the district, are almost as old as the century. One firm of the name started in a small way in 1808, under the title Galloway and Bowman, millwrights, of Great Bridgewater Street—the Caledonian Foundry as it was called. This original firm lasted for some thirty or forty years; but already at an early date, some time between 1830 and 1836, there had grown up beside it the younger William and John Galloway, ironfounders and engineers, Chester Road, Hulme. Some time before 1850 the firm had gone into the boiler trade, and in 1874 the large branch works at Hyde Road, just near Ardwick Station, were established. In 1890, the concern was made into a Limited, under the chairmanship of Charles J. Galloway, so well known in connection with the Jubilee Exhibition at Manchester and the Paris Exhibition of 1889, as well as in connection



BROOKS'S BANK, CHANCERY LANE.

with the Ship Canal, of which he is a director. For his services rendered at the Paris Exhibition he received the decoration of a "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur."

In the matter of mechanical industry, Salford divides the honour with Manchester. Several of the firms named, and those of the very largest and wealthiest, are situated in the borough—notably the Salford Ironworks, or Mather and Platt's. In Oldham, everybody is supposed to work at Platt's; probably the same holds good for Salford as regards Mather and Platt's. The original founder of the firm was a Colin Mather, who in 1817 was a cabinet-maker in Gun Street, Salford. He subsequently went into machine-making, and in 1836 was joined by his brother in founding the firm of W. and C. Mather, machine-makers and wheelwrights of Brown Street. In 1852 the firm became Mather and Platt, William Mather having taken into partnership his uncle, Mr. Alderman Platt. Since 1871, however, William Mather, junior, of renown in Parliament, one of the pioneers of the eight-hours day movement and the ally of Sir Henry Roscoe in the cause of technical education, took the entire management of the business, and seven years later the elder partners retired.

Another of these Salford firms, Sir W. H. Bailey and Co., the Albion Works, is one of the many offshoots from the old Sharp, Roberts and Co., from which have sprung so many Manchester mechanical concerns. Mr. John Bailey, father of the present head, Alderman Sir W. H. Bailey, was manager of the experimental department for the old inventor Roberts, and, when the latter's business declined, commenced a small works in Salford. From this has grown the present extensive concern—makers of probably a greater variety of machines than any other mechanical firm in the kingdom, a list ranging from torpedo-fittings, pumps, engines, and gauges, to church clocks and bells. Sir W. H. Bailey is also notable as one of the founders and directors of the Ship Canal enterprise, a past president of the Manchester Association of Engineers, a busy writer on the mechanical history of the county, as well as other subjects literary and antiquarian, and Mayor of Salford in 1894. He received the honour of knighthood at the opening of the Ship Canal.

We cannot leave our account of the commercial side of Manchester life without a reference to one of the most distinguishing modern features or outcomes of it. Banking in England had been established and pursued in London more than one hundred years before it began in Manchester. It was not till December, 1771, that the Manchester Bank, together with an office of insurance from fire, was opened

under the style of Byrom, Sedgwick, Allen, and Place. This, the first bank of Manchester, was located at the corner of St. Ann's Square and the later Bank Street. It is interesting, too, for its personality. Edward Byrom, the senior partner, was the son of John Byrom, the Manchester Jacobite, but in consequence of his early death, the title of the firm was changed to Allen and Sedgwick. It was not destined to stand long without competitors. In the following year "John Jones & Co., tea dealers," announce themselves as bankers. The bank was at the back of the shop, which was situated at 104, Market Street Lane, ground now covered by the Exchange. And there old Mr. Jones did his banking by the aid of one clerk, Mr. Greaves, and occupied his leisure time in "straightening bent tea-chest nails with a hammer." Afterwards the old gentleman's sons gave up tea-dealing and chose the better part, removing to the premises in King Street ever since held by the firm and its successors.

In 1792 a sister of the Joneses, herself a remarkable woman, was married to Lewis Loyd, then a young man of twenty-six, and minister of Dob Lane Chapel, with a salary of £40. When Lewis Loyd came to Manchester he had nothing but his "education," and the little white pony on which he had made the journey from Caermarthen, but he lived to administer the bank and to see his son become Lord Overstone. On his marriage he threw up the ministry and took to banking, and after various changes became chief partner, and the style of the firm became Jones, Loyd, and Co., a style which was retained till 1848.

On the death, in 1821, of William, the last of the Joneses, Edward Loyd became principal of the concern. At the close of his long management he retired to Surrey, leaving a greater gap in the polite circles of Manchester than had ever been caused by one individual before or since, and the firm became changed to Loyd, Entwisle, Bury and Jervis. It was in 1863 taken over by the Manchester and Liverpool District Bank (p. 61), the oldest and most respectable joint-stock bank outside of London. Though the old name (Jones, Loyd and Co.) has thus disappeared it is still remembered, and probably will be for a long time to come.



SIR WILLIAM C. BROOKS, BART.,
M.P.

(From a Photograph by Window and
Grove, London.)

The second great private banking house of Manchester, the Heywoods, whose firm has coalesced with the Manchester and Salford Bank, came originally from Liverpool. A Manchester public hardly needs to be told that it is this firm which has given to Manchester the most respected of its civic families, nor what the



THE BANK OF ENGLAND, KING STREET.

descent of that family is. After one abortive effort the Liverpool firm succeeded, in 1788, in establishing a branch in Manchester in the Emporium in the modern Exchange Street, under the title of Benjamin Heywood, Son and Co. In the same year the Manchester Bank, then owned only by Mr. Allen, failed, and the Heywoods purchased their premises, adopting at the same time the title of the extinct firm, "The Manchester Bank." In 1796 they removed to their late headquarters at the corner of St. Ann's Square. After the death of Benjamin, the head of the Manchester branch, it was carried on by his two sons, Benjamin Arthur, and Nathaniel, the latter of whom was in his time leader of polite society in the town. His eldest son was created a baronet in 1847, and the bank was conducted under the baronet's sons, until its transfer to the Manchester and Salford (p. 64). This latter had been floated as a joint-stock bank in 1836 with a

capital of £1,000,000. It is now the Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank, and possesses 48 branches in the surrounding districts. The name of the Heywoods in Manchester is always associated with anything and everything generous in local movement; and it is their traditionary fine flavour that has given to "Heywood's" and to its successor, the Manchester and Salford Bank, a reputation for producing men of some tone, such as Paul Moon James, a poetical nature; Randolph Caldecott, the artist; William Langton, one of the organisers of the Manchester Athenæum and mover of a project more than thirty years since for a university for Manchester. It was kind of fate to have wedded one of his daughters to Dr. Greenwood, the first vice-chancellor of Manchester's University.



THE NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL BANK: INTERIOR.

In 1875 Langton retired through loss of eyesight, and was succeeded by the late manager, Thomas Read Wilkinson, as many-sided and as finely balanced a nature as any even of his distinguished predecessors. Mr. Wilkinson displays his Manchester birth—he is the son of the founder of the Gutenberg Printing Works in Pendleton—in his thoroughness and activity and something more than his Manchester birth in the fineness of his artistic and literary instincts, which had been stimulated in middle life by contact with that extraordinary man, Principal Scott, of Owens. Mr. Wilkinson is on the Council of the School of Art, and on the Art Gallery Committee of the Manchester Corporation, besides being a member of numerous artistic and scientific as well as social clubs. On retiring from the management, he was presented with a sum of £10,000 and a handsome pension allowed him as a director. He was succeeded as manager by Mr. F. Kemp.

The third great historic banking family in Manchester has not yielded, like its *confrères*, to the spirit of the times. Cunliffes, Brooks and Co. is still a private bank, and likely so to be. This well-known house originated about 1815 at Blackburn. For more than twenty years previously Roger Cunliffe and William Brooks had carried on a hand-loom manufacturing business. In addition to their ordinary trade they had quietly carried on that private primitive sort of banking which was then customary. Three of old Mr. Brooks's sons migrated to Manchester and became calico-printers; and one of them, Samuel, junior partner in the firm of Reddish, Brooks and Co., High Street, opened a branch of the Blackburn Bank. In the early days of his Manchester life, this notable man, father of the present Sir William Cunliffe Brooks, M.P., lived at 4, Granby Row—then a “quality” street—in a very genteel house, with a garden, grass plot, and stable attached.

In 1847 Mr. Brooks purchased the premises that had just been vacated by the Bank of England. His intention was to rebuild them, but in consequence of a fire in his own premises the removal had to be made immediately. To this day, therefore, the premises are in great part as they were in the days of their occupation by the Bank of England. The King Street entrance still retains its unpretentious appearance, and if one wants to see the front of Brooks's, one must, so to say, go round to the back (p. 65).

As has been said, Brooks's is still a private bank. On the death of old Mr. Brooks, the bank passed into the possession of his son, Mr., afterwards Sir, William Cunliffe Brooks, Bart., with whom was afterwards associated his own son-in-law, Lord Francis Cecil, second son of the Marquis of Exeter. Lord Francis retired from the firm some years since, and at present the working heads are two nephews of Sir William, John Brooks Close Brooks, and Mr. Samuel Burd Brooks. It is supposed that the old man, by dint of banking and land purchases, left $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions of money, one million of which, with the bank, went to Sir William, lately M.P. for the Altrincham division of Cheshire. For a quarter of a century the baronet worked personally at the bank; but he now lives mostly in London during Parliamentary hours, and his Manchester residence, the charming old Barlow Hall in which there is so strong a local interest, sees him but seldom (p. 67).

The Bank of England branch in King Street was established in 1826, and was the second so opened in the provinces. It has seen a remarkable series of able

managers—John Reid, to whom the bankers of Manchester made a present of a purse containing £3,000 when he retired, and who was, too, a friend of Thackeray, who refers to him in “*The Newcomes*.” Another of Reid’s friends was Mr. Brooks, the banker, just mentioned. The two were for ever tilting at each other, says Mr. Grindon, and according to him it ran on this wise:—

“Ah,” said Mr. Brooks to him one day, admiring his noble figure and handsome profile; “thou art a pratty lad!”

“Ah, my lad,” replied the other, “but thou hast a prattier pocket!”

It was during Reid’s managership that the bank removed to its present quarters, in 1847. He was succeeded by George Archer Shee, a son of Sir Martin Archer Shee, President of the Royal Academy, and he again by Edward W. Nix, to whom Manchester is especially indebted for its clearing-house—a clearing-house which, it is well known, stands second only to London in the volume of its business, and second to none at all in its arrangement and method (p. 68). The present agent for the Bank of England is Mr. George W. Moultrie.

The first of the joint-stock banks was the Bank of Manchester, which started in 1828, with a nominal capital of £2,000,000, and which now flourishes under the chairmanship of Mr. James A. Bannerman. It lives to-day as the Consolidated, having been re-christened so because of its consolidation with the old metropolitan firm of Heywood, Kennards and Co., and more recently that of Hankey and Co.

In the same year, 1829, which witnessed the starting of the “Manchester,” the Manchester and Liverpool District Bank was established. This institution to-day stands foremost in the list of provincial banks, with its seventy branches and sub-branches, including two important offices in Manchester, one in Liverpool, and one in Cornhill, London. The bank first began in Stockport, and all its early notes are marked with that name (p. 61).

Like its predecessor, the Manchester and Liverpool had its time of trial, in 1838, when it made bad debts to the amount of £375,000; but the directors wisely made a clean breast of it, and from that day the prosperity and advance of the bank have been conspicuous and unbroken. In common with almost every other joint-stock bank in the country that had not already adopted the principle of limited liability, the Manchester and Liverpool attached the word “Limited” to its title not very long after the collapse of the City of Glasgow Bank in 1878. The

managing directors are Mr. James Halliday, formerly the well-known public accountant, and Mr. William Tipping, whose connection with the bank covers the whole of his business career.

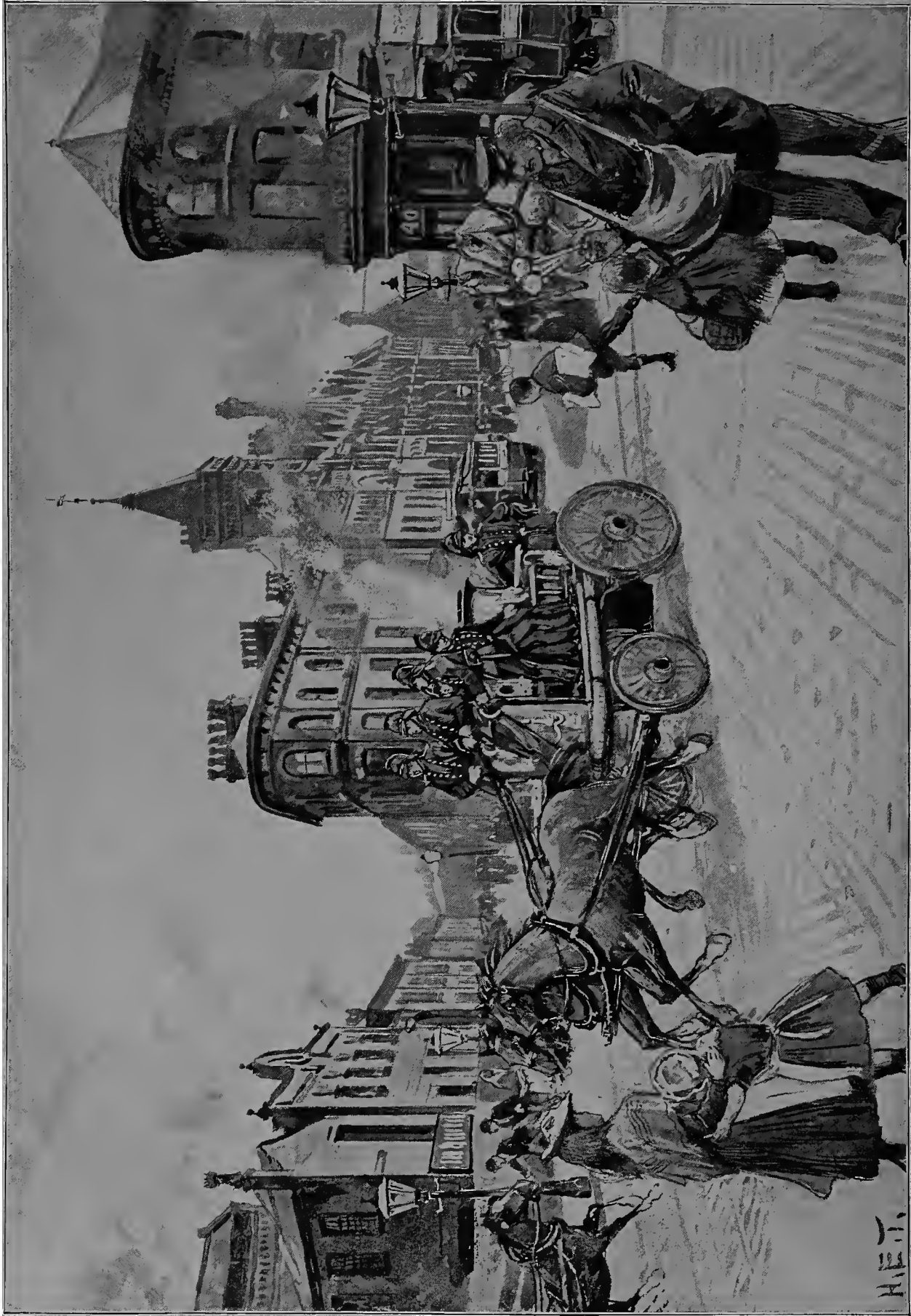
In 1839 was established the Union Bank of Manchester, which was also singular at its commencement in declining branch business; but this principle has been relinquished, and outside Manchester and Salford the bank now has a matter of thirty-six branches.

For almost twenty years after the establishment of the Union no more bank-floating occurred in Manchester. In 1862, however, the Manchester and County was started, and, though comparatively young by the side of the other joint-stock banks, it has made swift progress, and possesses to-day more branch establishments than the Union, and not far short of the oldest and strongest joint-stock company, the Manchester and Liverpool. Its manager is Mr. Alexander Muir.

The Manchester and County was followed by the Lancashire and Yorkshire, originally a branch of the Alliance Bank of London and Liverpool, but made since 1872 into a new and separate company. It now has its head offices in the magnificent block of buildings at the top of King Street, designed by Waterhouse, which contains also the offices of the Manchester Ship Canal and of the National and Provincial Bank, a branch of the London bank, which was established in Manchester as early as 1836 (p. 69).

Besides these thus enumerated, there are upwards of half-a-dozen others in the town, all interesting, and many with a local history—Coryton's Exchange Bank, the Mercantile Bank of Lancashire, Thomas Nash and Sons, the Manchester Joint-Stock, amalgamated with the London and Midland, the Adelphi Bank, Limited, and others.

In their totality, her banks represent the best side and traditions of Manchester trade and trading family history, and that, too, with a flavour and refinement such as is not always associated with Lancashire commerce by the unknowing.



THE JUNCTION, HULME: A CALL TO FIRE (UPPER JACKSON STREET SCHOOL IN THE BACKGROUND).

CHAPTER V.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

" . . . a gentleman's calling, which is to have the knowledge of a man of business, a carriage suitable to his rank, and to be eminent and useful in his country according to his station. I have one thing more to add, which as soon as I shall mention I shall run the danger of being suspected to have forgot what I have above written concerning education all tending towards a gentleman's calling, and yet I cannot forbear to say I would have him *learn a trade—a manual trade.*"—LOCKE: *Letters on Education.*

The Pioneer County—Beginnings of National Education—Joseph Lancaster—The British and National Schools—Edwin Waugh and the Lancashire Public School Association—The Education Act of 1870—The Board Schools—Miss Lydia Becker—Birley, the Educational Monarch—The Board School Night Classes and the Technical School—Excessive Overlapping and Waste of Effort—The Whitworth Institute—The School of Art—John Zephaniah Bell—In a Poor Way for Art—St. Bede's College—The Lancashire Independent, independent indeed—Owens College—Its Essence—John Owens, the Founder—"I've Made My Will"—Principals Scott, Greenwood, and Ward—Sir Henry Roscoe—Popular Lectures and the Night Classes—The Extension of 1870 and the Women's College—Professors Wilkins and Boyd Dawkins—The Medical School—Professor Milnes Marshall—The Victoria University—Mr. Neild and Mr. Thompson—Charles Beyer and the Whitworth Legatees—Strong-handed Builders.



EDWIN WAUGH.

(From a Photograph by Warwick Brookes,
Oxford Street, Manchester.)

WAS it not Cobden who first uttered the words that have since passed into so oft-repeated a proverb, "What Lancashire thinks to-day, England will think to-morrow?" Again and again those words have been literally true, and if they are not yet true of matters educational, it is only because in that respect the morrow has yet to dawn for England.

Of all the States in the world pretending to any civilisation, England has shown herself most backward in this matter. Whatever enthusiasm in the cause of education was called forth by the Reformation spent itself in the founding of grammar schools, which, in many instances, became for centuries the most dead and useless institutions in Europe. There was such an one in Manchester, and an exceptional one, as its roll of distinguished scholars proves. But in the end it fared no better, and it was only the common sense of the inhabitants that rescued it almost within the last half-century from absolute inanity. Besides those grammar schools there were for centuries no institutions whatever to provide for the education of the masses of the people; and

when a tardy beginning was made it contained little signs of promise. About 1750 two private schools were erected at Levenshulme and Ardwick by the generosity of the Birch family and of a Mr. Fletcher. Some years later, towards the end of the century, the Sunday School movement arose. In 1782, the same year in which Robert Raikes began his work in Gloucester, a Mr. Fildes opened a Sunday School in a Manchester cellar. Fildes had a grocer's shop in Travis Street, and "next to his shop was a cellar inhabited by a poor shoemaker named John Lancaster, who came to Manchester from Halifax, and almost immediately started a Sunday School in his cellar. Both he and his neighbours were Methodists, and Fildes learning what he had done, joined him in the effort. A second school was established in a garret, and a third in the first room in Manchester built expressly for such a purpose—a room erected at Mr. Fildes's own expense behind his dwelling-house in the neighbourhood of London Road." Then the movement spread and three years later rules were drawn up for the government of the Sunday Schools in Manchester. They were to be worked quite undenominationally, or rather, "comprehensively;" but in 1800 the General Committee decided upon a separation scheme; a certain number of places were to be henceforth held as Church of England Schools, and to be governed by the clergy and their friends, the Dissenters having the same right reserved to them.

Before these institutions had extended their sphere so as to embrace Day School work, a rival scheme had stepped in. In the first decade of the present century Joseph Lancaster, the son of a Chelsea pensioner, had begun to gather poor children together (at first in his father's home) and to give them free rudimentary instruction. In a short time he had not less than 1,000 children in hand, his system of teaching being the monitorial or mutual system, the elder scholars being employed in instructing the younger. The work grew into the Royal Lancasterian Institution, which afterwards changed its name to the British and Foreign School Society. As early as 1809 this Society had established a school in Manchester, the Royal Lancasterian School in Marshall Street, Oldham Road, which soon gathered no less than 1,000 scholars. In 1880 it was transferred to the School Board.

Side by side with the British and Foreign School Society ran the National Society of the Church of England, which organised its schools on the lines of Joseph Lancaster's rival, Andrew Bell. In 1812 one of these schools was founded in Salford and another in the following year in Granby Row.

It is these two societies that have given us the "British" and the "National" Schools. That they were unequal to the work they had to perform need hardly be said. There was no normal school in the proper sense of the word—no school for the education of the teacher himself; the monitorial system was mostly in use, and whatever teachers there were, were ill-educated, not to speak of the poverty and insufficiency of the school accommodation and apparatus.



HERBERT BIRLEY.

(From a Photograph by A. Whittle, Oxford Street, Manchester.)

When about 1833 this poverty began to be glaringly apparent, the Privy Council tried to meet it in a tinkering way by small grants from the Treasury. These grants were for a time made only to the British and National Schools, and it was not till after the well-known Council Minutes, brought forward

in 1846 by Sir James Shuttleworth, that the grants were thrown open to all denominations.

In his early life this distinguished man had practised in Manchester as a physician and attained a high reputation, his name being still among the most honoured in connection with the Royal Manchester Infirmary. His extensive acquaintance with educational statistics led to his appointment as Secretary to the Committee of the Privy Council on Education, and it was in this capacity that he brought forward the proposals in the Minutes of Council referred to.

Practically it was out of these proposals that there sprang one of those agitations which serve to mark how far the intelligence of Manchester is ahead of that of the rest of England. In the middle of 1847 a meeting was held in the Mechanics' Institute, Cooper Street, under the presidency of Alexander Henry, M.P., to consider the subject of the provision generally available for education. The outcome was the formation of the Lancashire Public School Association, which became in 1850 the National Public School Association.



MISS LYDIA BECKER.

(From a Photograph by Warwick Brookes.)

It was this body which brought Edwin Waugh (p. 73) to Manchester. At the age of thirty Waugh migrated hither to become its assistant secretary. What a fund of thought and endearment his name calls up! We have it from many a kindly critic that those songs of his which were written in pure English would alone have given him rank as a poet. However questionable that



CENTRAL BOARD SCHOOL, DEANSGATE.

may be, none will doubt—certainly no son of Lancashire will ever doubt—the forceful tenderness, pathos, and beauty of what he wrote in his native dialect. In some hidden untold way the dialect seems identified with the spirit of the people of Lancashire, as if their genius had unconsciously moulded one single instrument to express itself, its force, its heartiness, occasionally its fero-

city, more often its latent tenderness and depth of resignation unfelt, unseen, save by those who know the inner life of the factory toilers. On the whole the dialect lends itself rather to terse narrative, humour, and epigrammatic sarcasm, and too frequently to coarseness, but in the hands of a tenderly-gifted nature, such as Waugh's, its power of expressing moving, heart-easing things—and Keats tells us

They shall be accounted poet-kings,
Who simply say the most heart-easing things—

is unrivalled. The *Saturday Review* spoke of his "Come whoam to the childer

and me" as "one of the most delicious idylls in the world, so full of colour, so delicate, so tender, so profoundly free from artifice."

During the later years of his life Waugh resided in a charming little home at New Brighton, where he had scope to indulge his favourite pastime of bathing, but Manchester lived in his thoughts. When near the end, and when his mind began to wander, "Dress me," he said imperatively, "and take me to Manchester," and so he was brought to Manchester, in the spring of 1890, and buried in the churchyard of St. Paul's, on Kersal Moor, "in the breezy locality with which he was more familiar," and with all such honour as the living can do in their last act to the dead. His funeral will long be remembered for its impressive solemnity.



GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL AND HOLY NAME HALL, DOVER STREET.

The Lancashire Public School Association, with which Waugh was connected during his early manhood, had for its object the establishment of a complete system of national education on the American principle. A School Committee was to be appointed in each defined locality. It was to have the power of levying rates, and the instruction was to be free and secular. A county board of twelve, with a secretary and two inspectors, was to overlook all the local committees and their schools, and to establish a normal school for the training of teachers. All other schools and school systems were to be superseded. The scheme had the support of Richard Cobden's name and, as might be expected, met with strong clerical opposition, which was headed by Canon Stowell. A rival scheme was afterwards started by the promoters of the Manchester and Salford Education Bill in which

it was proposed to preserve existing institutions and to graft on to them the system of a local rate managed by local representatives. Neither association achieved its object either in whole or immediately. But the influence of the movement was powerful. In 1866, the year in which the Social Science Congress held its meeting in Manchester, a conference was also held in the town to consider the question of promoting a system of national education. Its deliberations were presided over by Lord Aberdare and Mr. W. E. Forster, and when nineteen years later, in 1885, Lord Aberdare presided over a second educational conference in Manchester—"the conference on education under healthy conditions"—he referred to the influence of the former movement in these words:—"As a result of that conference a committee was formed and a Bill framed, and that Bill I had the honour of introducing into the House of Commons in 1867 and 1868, being on both occasions strongly seconded by Mr. Forster. I think it cannot be doubted that the movement at Manchester had the effect of hastening forward the Act of 1870, which with subsequent improvements is now the Act upon which our system of elementary education rests."

Although the influence of the city was thus strong, the result achieved up to this moment had not filled up the measure of the wishes of those Manchester agitators of the "fifties" and "sixties." For the Education Act of 1870 established no typical national schools. The old system of grants through the Privy Council to private schools was not suspended; and at this moment the voluntary schools of Manchester have a greater attendance than the Board Schools.

All that was contemplated by the Act of 1870 was to ensure a sufficiency of accommodation in public elementary schools. Where this did not exist a School Board was to be formed, and the deficiency met. What the previous state of things had been is a matter of common knowledge, but the harmfulness of it is hardly realisable. In March of the same year, 1870, Mr. Fearon, a commissioner specially appointed by Government to examine into the state of elementary education in Manchester among the poorer classes, submitted his report to the Committee of Council. He had found in the town ninety-four schools not in receipt of any Government grant, and not subject to any inspection. He succeeded in visiting ninety of these, and his account of some of them is painful. In one school the teacher had been partially crippled by a paralytic stroke. Another school of fifty-two pupils was conducted in two rooms in a private dwelling, the master being a

man over sixty, who officiated in his shirt sleeves. "The disorder was great. The children were packed so close, and were so disorderly that to a stranger standing in the doorway they looked like a seething mass of children."

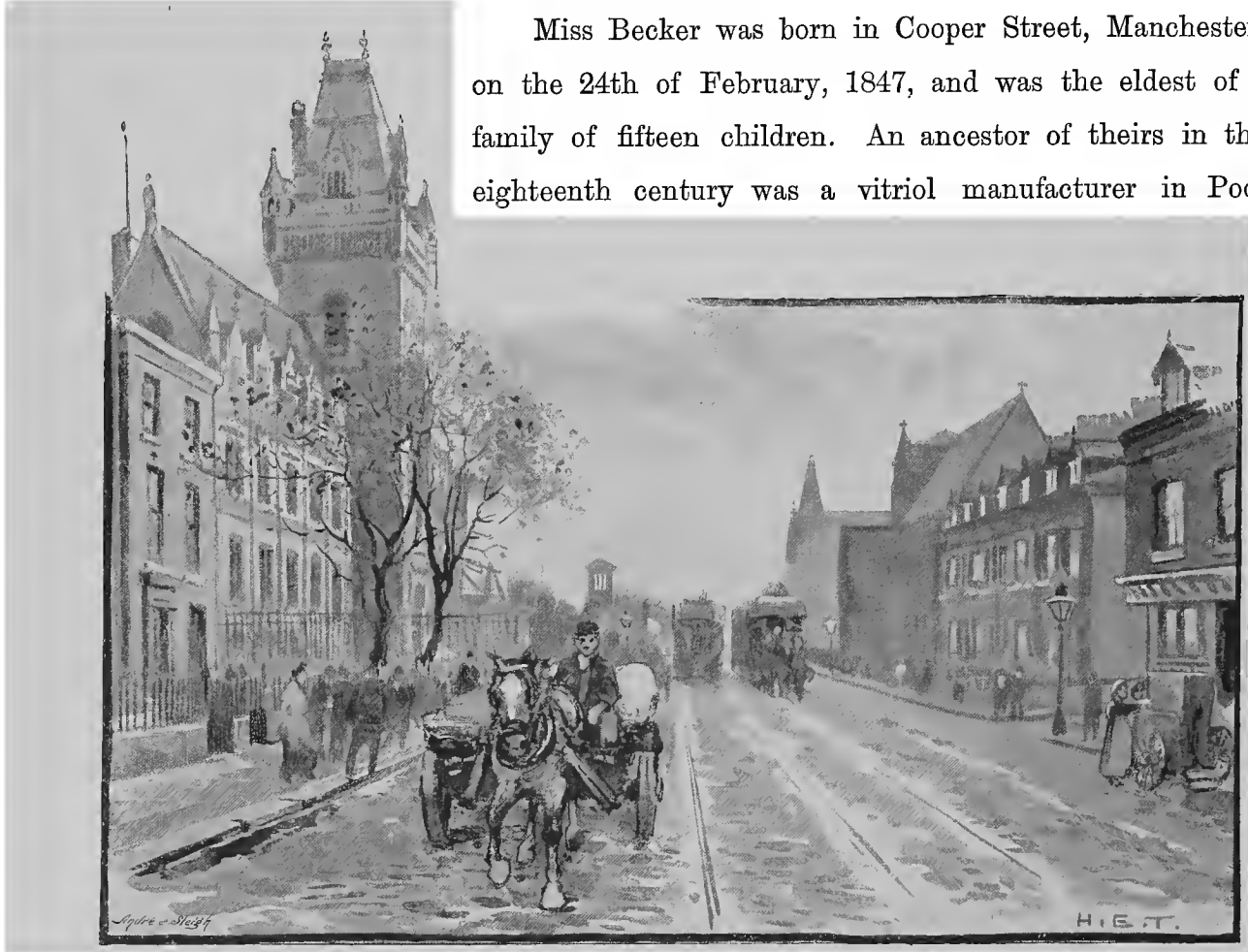
The school was reported as unfit on every ground—moral, physical, and intellectual. Another was "almost like a closet, in a yard leading out of a low street, and with holes in the windows stuffed with a newspaper."

In these uninspected schools the commissioners found 1,750 children, while in the inspected schools, which numbered seventy-nine, there was a roll of 32,000 children, the actual attendance being only 21,000. This was at a time when the total juvenile population of Manchester could not have been less than 60,000. It was well, therefore, that immediately on the passing of the Act of 1870, the clauses relating to the duties of municipal bodies were brought before the notice of the Corporation. In September preliminary steps were taken for the formation of a School Board. The official machine was set a-going, the General Purposes Committee appointed an Elementary Education Sub-Committee, which in due course reported, and so on, and so on. As a result, the first election for the Manchester School Board took place in November, 1870, and among the fifteen returned was Miss Lydia Ernestine Becker (p. 75).

As one of the representative women of the nineteenth century Miss Becker will be more frequently remembered as the leading spirit in the women's suffrage movement, than as a member of the Manchester School Board. But throughout, her work on the School Board was of a most practical and valuable nature. "One of her last acts in connection with it was the appointment of a lady superintendent, to instruct girls in the night schools in sick-nursing, dressmaking," and the like.

In every sense Miss Becker was a Manchester woman. Strong—over-strong some of her women's-right colleagues thought her—"over-masterful," terse in speech, resolute, and prompt in act, and yet withal a woman, "an out-and-out defender of corsets," as she declared herself at the Newcastle meeting of the British Association. "Do you know," she said to Miss Cobbe, "the great tide of people rushing through Parliament Street, and all the flood of life and business eddying below our windows there are essential to me? I could not bear to sit and work in your quiet rooms." Yet she often expressed her desire to be relieved "from perpetual contention for a bare right," so that she might devote herself to some work of a happier kind.

"A good husband is worth fifty votes," she said to a married lady, who was strongly urging the claims of women to the suffrage. And to the end she insisted in her love of the beautiful: "I could not live without beautiful things to look at, and something to love." The words reveal something more in her character than she was ordinarily credited with.



HYDE ROAD AND NICHOLLS HOSPITAL.

Fold. She had an office in Cross Street, near where the Law Library used to be, and throughout her life remained connected with her native town, being divided from it in her death only by accident. In June, 1890, she went to Switzerland, for health and holiday. After staying a week at Annecy she took a circuitous route to reach St. Gervais-les-Bains. The diligence set her down some distance from St. Gervais, and as she had not taken the precaution to order a vehicle she found herself stranded, and had to take shelter for the night in some unprotected baths. The result was a severe chill, and later she telegraphed to her brother, Mr. Wilfred Becker: "Am dangerously ill of diphtheria—come at once." But on

the following day she died (August, 1890), before any of her relations could reach her.

A still more prominent figure on the School Board has been Mr. Herbert Birley. Through most of its life the Manchester School Board, as also the Salford, has been under the guidance of this educational monarch. Of the family from which he sprang, and whose traditions of benevolence and modesty he maintained so honourably, we have already spoken. He is held to have done more for education in Manchester than any other man. His efforts do not date from the formation of the Board. For years previously he had, with the help of the members of his family, maintained and guided schools in Hulme, founded by them primarily for their work-people, and when the Board was established, although he was a Churchman, his administration of the Education Act was most impartial and unsectarian. In his views as to the usefulness of the Board he was most advanced, and had to encounter strong opposition from the advocates of the voluntary schools, the champion of which, the Rev. Joseph Nunn, was after the contest in 1885 elected chairman. The triumph of sectarian education, however, was brief. In 1888 Mr. Birley was again chairman, and so remained till his death, in 1890, when he was succeeded by Canon Kelly, and he in turn by Dean Maclure.

Not the smallest service done to the cause of education in Manchester by Owens College has been the raising of the standard of elementary education. The college has literally pulled up the schools to the level it demanded. What this institution has done for all, the Board Schools have done for their fellows, and as a result of their work the position of elementary education and of the voluntary schools themselves is vastly different in this year of grace from what it was before 1870. The schools of the Board have always stood well with the examiner. The class subjects, English and geography for the boys and English and needlework for the girls, are pretty sure to be marked "good" or "fair"; all the departments may be



BEFORE THE DAYS OF BOARD
SCHOOLS.

expected to earn the grant for singing, and some of the special subjects are certain to be denoted "excellent." For the pursuit of a course of elementary education such as this the average charge is one penny per week, the maximum of sixpence being only levied in the higher grade schools, while by far the greater proportion of them give entirely free instruction.

This result has not been accomplished without division and grumbling. When first the Board was formed it was found that the initial expenditure would be met by a precept of £13,000 to provide schools, buildings, etc. In 1892 the precept had risen to £75,000, a sum which has since been exactly maintained. On the first voting of so large an amount in the Council there was a warm debate and very diverse views were expressed as to the relations between Board and voluntary schools, and as to the quality of the work of the former. There are 62 Board schools with an average attendance of 29,202 (although there is accommodation for 39,302) as contrasted with 104 voluntary schools—British, Church of England, Catholic and Wesleyan—with a larger average attendance.

In regard to higher educational organisation, Manchester is open to the reproach of waste that is characteristic of the whole of the English system. There is no relation between the various grades—between the elementary schools and the grammar and commercial schools, and between these and the university. The result is want of system, haphazard effort, overlapping and, far more serious than all, want of touch between school and university. The Board Schools compete with the science work of the Technical School, the Technical School itself competes with the general education work of the ordinary or Grammar School. As a college, Owens has few feeders; the Grammar School, until of late years, stood apart, sending its men usually to Brasenose or St. John's; and between the college and the ordinary schools there is absolutely no organic connection. This is the outcome of the peculiarly English way of doing things—cautious, tentative, voluntary, "one thing at a time, if you please." How delightfully simple it would be if elementary education should be held to cease at a certain standard or age, say ten, and then from ten to fourteen a higher grade be perforce attempted—technical for the workman, commercial for the clerk, grammar school for the intending university man. As compared with such a system—or, indeed, with any system—the present state of things is absolutely chaotic and likely to remain so.

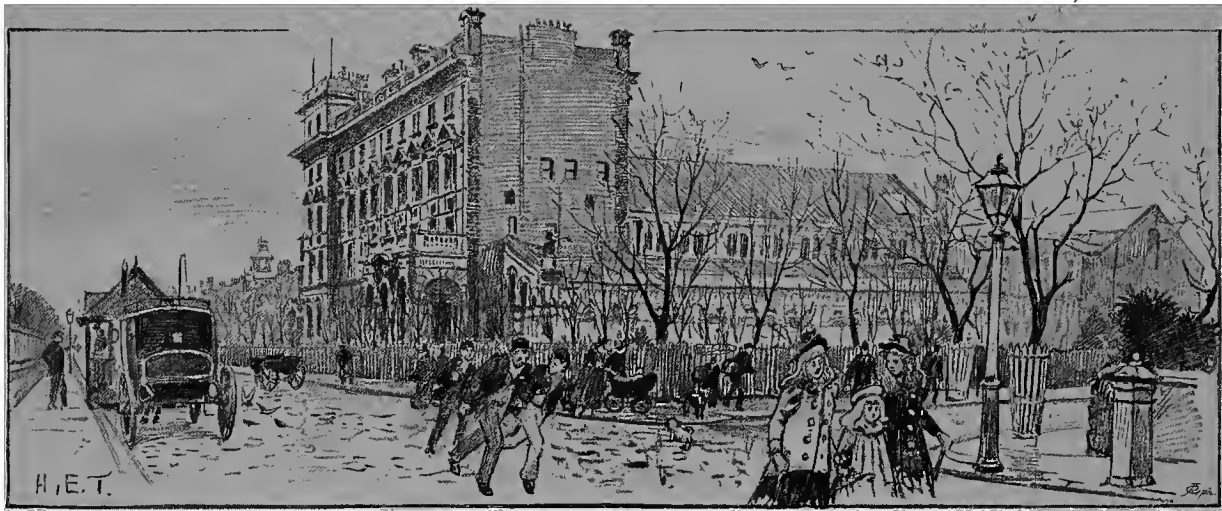
The Board Schools provide evening continuation classes, which were commenced in September, 1890, and are now attended by about 9,000 pupils. Further, at seven of the centres commercial evening schools are conducted at which higher subjects (type-writing, shorthand, French, etc.) are taught; and these are almost as well attended. A third department—the Evening Science and Art School—was reorganised so late as the commencement of the session 1890–1, with the result that the attendance of 3,000 in 1889 was almost doubled.

All this provision, it will be borne in mind, is for evening students. In addition there are science schools under the Board for day school work, and now, since the passing of the Technical Instruction Act, the Technical School and the Art School have become corporate property, and form under the Council Committee the basis of the Manchester Secondary Education Scheme. Before the passing of that Act a comprehensive plan had been proposed by the Whitworth legatees; but the situation afterwards quite changed, and the Whitworth Institute is devoted to the Museum and Art Gallery in the Whitworth Park, while the work of secondary technical education has devolved on the Corporation.

As it stood before this wider scheme was in evidence, the Technical School was the outcome of the old Mechanics' Institute movement, and it is of some note in that connection. The building which this institution put up in Cooper Street in 1825 was the first in England erected for such a purpose. It was to this old building that Brougham once came down specially from London to give a lecture, in the course of which he made a well-remembered kindly reference to Dr. Henry, the president of the Literary and Philosophical Society—"I met an old worthy friend of mine, a man of great ability and learning, your townsman, Dr. Henry. We were fellow-collegians and learned chemistry together, though, God wot, he learned a good deal more than I did."

Mechanics' Institutes generally have not answered the purposes for which they were intended, partly on account of a want of system in the instruction, and it was the perception of this which led to the founding of the Manchester Working Men's College, and, at a later period, of the Technical School. In 1882 a general meeting of the members of the Institute was held, the establishment of a Technical School was resolved on, and rules were adopted. It was opened in September of the following year by Oliver Heywood, and has since had a most useful career.

In 1888 the Legatees of Sir Joseph Whitworth came forward with a scheme for the creation of a Whitworth Institute of Art and Industry, with the object of taking over the Technical School and the School of Art, and the laying out of the Whitworth Park, on a portion of which there should be built a museum illustrating the history of art and industry. The profits of the Jubilee Exhibition—£43,000—were handed over to the Institute, on condition of £20,000 being devoted to the Museum, £10,000 to the School of Art, and the balance, with interest, to the erection of a new Technical School. Both the Technical School and the School of



ST. BEDE'S COLLEGE.

Art were amalgamated with the Institute, the Legatees contributing £1,000 per annum to the maintenance of the former for five years ending with 1891. As the result of arrangements, however, between the Corporation and the Whitworth Institute, the School of Art and the Technical School were shortly afterwards taken over by the city. For the maintenance of the latter of these, grants of £2,500 and £4,000 for the first and second years respectively were made by the City Council. At the same time the various endowments with which the Whitworth Legatees had provided the Institute were handed over to the Corporation by the latter body with the full consent of the Legatees. These included the lands in Whitworth Street, formerly Pump Street, valued at £35,000, and the lands, buildings, and fittings of what was formerly the Swedenborgian Chapel and Schools in Peter Street, valued at £15,000. The ground thus given was intended to form the site of the new Technical School, and in addition to it the Legatees gave a sum of £5,000

towards the erection. With the ceasing of its immediate control over the technical education of Manchester, the Whitworth Institute has unavoidably lost part of its essential function, and its future development is matter for keen interest and anxiety. As yet the Institute is restricted to the Art Gallery and Museum in the Whitworth Park.

As organised at present, the Technical Schools include a commercial and manual training school for boys, from thirteen to fifteen years of age. For the more advanced, instruction is afforded in electrical and mechanical engineering, sanitary engineering, textile and industrial chemistry, industrial drawing and design, the building trades, commercial knowledge, and women's work. There is a staff of about seventy principal and assistant teachers, and also of thirty other persons employed in the administration.

The secretary of the institution is Mr. J. H. Reynolds, and the chairman of the committee is Alderman James Hoy, in succession to the previous chairman of the council of the school, Mr. Harry Rawson, J.P. Councillor Rawson is one of the most honoured members of the City Council. He started many years since in Manchester as an apprentice to Thomas Forrest, the Market Street bookseller and printer, and is now the head of the firm of H. Rawson and Company, printers and stationers, New Brown Street; and on the death



THE TECHNICAL SCHOOL, PRINCESS STREET.

of Sir Thomas Sowler became president of the Manchester and Salford Master Printers' Association. His well-known services to the Unitarian body, of the Association of which body he was president in 1887, have not surpassed those he has rendered to the Mechanics' Institute and to the cause of technical education in Manchester.

The students, whether day or evening, were at first prepared for the examinations of the Society of Arts, and of the Union of Lancashire and Cheshire Institutes; but in the course of 1890 the Victoria University organised a scheme of commercial and literary certificates, with the object of connecting the school more closely with the university.

The fellow institution to the Technical School in this process of recasting and reorganising, is the Municipal School of Art, a notable place, designed and destined to wipe away from Manchester the reproach of barbarianism in matters artistic.

In 1837 Benjamin Robert Haydon visited the town to advocate the establishment of a School of Design, and on that occasion he made a curious entry in his diary: "Manchester in a dreadful condition as to art. No School of Design. The young men drawing without instruction. A fine anatomical figure shut up in a box; the housekeeper obliged to hunt for the key. I'll give it them before I go." Haydon had come down as the missionary of the School of Design, which had been established in London in that same year as the outcome of a Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the causes of the general inferiority in the application of art to furniture, pottery, metal work, etc. And the first school to be established in the provinces in imitation of that in London was at Manchester, in 1838.

For the purposes of instruction, the directors of the Royal Institution lent the Nicholas Street side of their building free of charge, and there the school was opened in October, 1838. At the instance of Sir David Wilkie, the head-mastership had been given to John Zephaniah Bell, who is held to have been the first and the last worthy master the old School of Design ever had. It was established chiefly as a School of Design; but Bell, as his later life showed, was a man of grand artistic gift. He insisted on establishing drawing from the figure. The committee, commercial and narrow in its views, was not satisfied, and in the end the life class had to be abandoned, and Bell resigned in contempt. The chief members composing the life class, however, subscribed among themselves and hired an attic over Rose's china shop in King Street, and there they met—Warwick Brookes, Francis Chester,



THE SCHOOL OF ART AND CAVENDISH STREET CHAPEL, ALL SAINTS' SQUARE.

Robert Crozier, Edward Benson, George Hayes, Samuel Mayson, Fred Tavaré, Thomas Letherbrow, and a few more kindred spirits. In 1849, however, the School of Design was removed to Brown Street, and under J. A. Hammersley the study of the living figure was reintroduced, and then these old academicians joined the school again. It had, however, but a dubious sort of career, until its re-creation in quite recent years as "The School of Art"—a different thing with a different name.

In 1881 the present building (Plate 21) in Cavendish Street was erected. The scheme was broached in 1876 and a large site purchased, but the original plans prepared by Mr. Redmayne had to be considerably modified on account of want of means, although one of its supporters, Mr. F. W. Grafton, then M.P. for North Lancashire, contributed no less a sum than £8,000.

When, however, the school was amalgamated with the Whitworth Institute it was agreed to spend £10,000 on an extension, to be called the Royal Jubilee Exhibition section. But like the Technical School, on the passing of the late Act, it was released from its union with the Whitworth Institute, and handed over to the Corporation, with, we presume, still greater promise of munificent extension in buildings and curriculum.

The place is certainly worthy of the town's most lavish support. It is held to be, and that, too, by judges abroad, the best School of Art in England; and this might be concluded from the result of any single year's competition at South Kensington. In 1891 one gold medal was awarded to the school, as was also the Princess of Wales's Scholarship, a special national award, and, in addition, four silver and thirteen bronze medals, and twenty-six national Queen's prizes. The general result in these competitions is that Manchester takes about as many medals and prizes as South Kensington, Glasgow, Nottingham, and Birmingham put together.

The credit of this high result is attributed to Mr. R. H. A. Willis, who, in 1883, succeeded Mr. Muckley as head-master, being himself succeeded, ten years later, by Mr. R. Glazier, A.R.I.B.A., with whom was associated Walter Crane as director of design. According to the *Journal of Decorative Art*, the change in the school methods and results under Mr. Willis was very marked. The old "eternal round" of outline sketching and the old rigid routine were replaced by more intellectual courses—drawing from the flat and round, tinting, modelling, and, by a welcome flexibility in routine, free-play was allowed to the special bent of the individual. Such a treatment

is absolutely essential to the discovery of talent, and its adoption is a matter for congratulation. A still further incentive to original effort and creation was started at the close of 1891 in the *Journal of the Manchester School of Art Society* (p. 92).

In the absence as yet of such a graduated systematised course of secondary education as we have been speaking of, the mercantile needs of Manchester are



MANCHESTER WAREHOUSEMEN'S AND CLERKS' ORPHAN SCHOOLS, CHEADLE HULME.

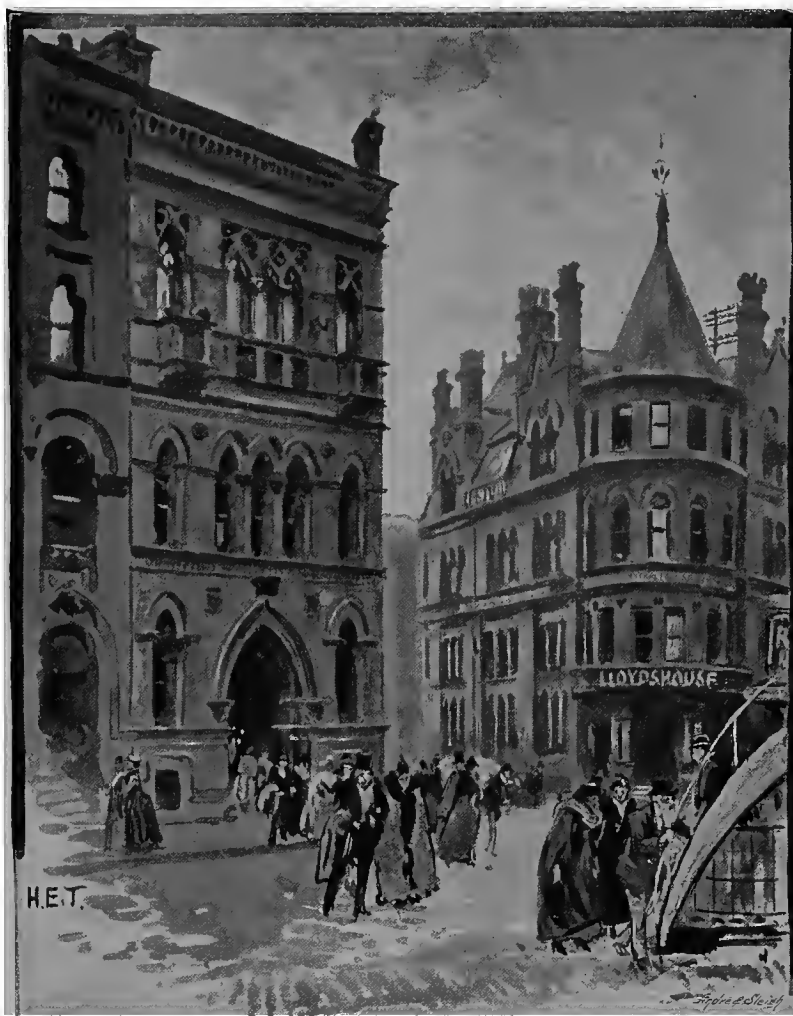
attempted to be met by a variety of institutions, commercial training colleges, such as St. Bede's, and the commercial side of the evening Board schools, the grammar school, and so on.

St. Bede's is a creation of Dr. Vaughan's, till lately Bishop of Salford, and now Archbishop of Westminster and Cardinal. It is a fine-looking building, situate on the skirts of Alexandra Park (p. 84). Oddly enough, it was first opened as an aquarium in 1872, but being a failure in that form it was bought by Bishop Vaughan in 1878 for the Commercial School which he had been carrying on for a year or two previously. The aquarium itself has been utilised as an academic hall and commercial museum. This latter is quite a unique feature. It contains a collection of the raw materials used in various trades, and is of immense value in the teaching of commercial geography. Leading from this museum are the science lecture room, the practical laboratory, the joiners' shop, the music room, and the artists' studio, an enumeration which will give an idea of the work of the college, and may justify the statement that as a commercial school there is nothing like it in the kingdom. The course of studies is based on the scheme drawn up by the Manchester Chamber

of Commerce, but there is a classical side. The whole school, which contains a large number of boarders and day pupils, is under the rectorship of Dr. L. C. Casartelli, a Manchester man, who, while still at the University of Louvain, was induced by Bishop Vaughan—an enthusiast on the subject—to devote his attention to commercial education. He holds a high position in the mercantile world of Manchester, besides being an Oriental student and able to converse in an unconscionable number of languages—according to vague, but possibly true, rumour, sixteen.

On quite a different footing from the institution just named is the Manchester Warehousemen's and Clerks' School (p. 88). It is intended primarily for the education of necessitous children

of warehousemen and clerks. Children of subscribers of a guinea a year are admitted free and maintained until they are fifteen years old in case of the death or incapacitation of the father. It is in its way one of the most deserving charities in Manchester, though least supported by the very class it is intended for. It started in quite a small way in 1855. A deputation from the London Warehousemen's and Clerks' School visited Manchester and proposed to form a branch. A meeting was held, and the city determined to have its own school independent of London. Subscriptions were raised, and as a result six children were put to board with Mr. McDougall, at Shaw Hall School, Flixton. Six years



MEMORIAL HALL, ALBERT SQUARE.

later two houses in Park Lane, Ardwick, were taken, but they quickly proved too small, and in 1867 the foundation stone of the School at Cheadle Hulme, was laid by Earl Granville. The original building cost about £17,000, but additions have since been made, the whole being now under the guidance of Mr. George Board, B.A.

As a further indication of the spirit of the town in matters educational, the scheme for the founding of a College of Music may be instanced. The inaugural meeting took place in the Mayor's parlour on the 4th of May, 1892, and the college was opened in October of the year following with 79 students. It has been granted a Royal charter, and is established on a solid basis. The work is carried on in a handsome building given by Mr. C. E. Lees, of Oldham. The institution is organically connected with Owens College, so as to enable its students to proceed to degrees in music. The presidency of the institution was accepted by Sir W. H. Houldsworth, Bart., M.P., and its first principal was Sir Charles Hallé, of whom anon.

Besides the elementary and commercial educational institutions, Manchester contains several religious colleges of some note: the Wesleyan College at Didsbury, the Baptist at Brighton Grove, founded in 1866, and the Unitarian College in Albert Square, founded as the Memorial Hall (p. 89), in 1864, in commemoration of the "two thousand" dissenting ministers who were ejected on Black Bartholomew, 1662; and finally the Lancashire Independent College. This last is the most considerable of the religious colleges of Manchester; and, since the extensions of 1882, stands first of all the training colleges of the Congregational body.

The Lancashire Union of the Independent Churches was formed in 1806, and in the same year an academy was started in the town in a very private way by Mr. Robert Spear, a Manchester cotton spinner. Mr. Spear defrayed the personal expenses of the students, and gratuitous instruction was given to them in the vestry of Mosley Street Chapel, by the Rev. W. Roby, minister of Cannon Street. Among those who were trained under him was the missionary Moffat, father-in-law to Livingstone. When Moffat introduced himself to Roby he was out of work, having lost his employment through "becoming a Methodist." The minister assisted him in finding a place, and eventually got him into a nursery at Dukinfield as a gardener with a wage of thirteen shillings a week. He was afterwards accepted by the Missionary Society, and spent some months under Roby training for a missionary. It was at first proposed that he should accompany John Williams to Polynesia, but

Dr. Waugh thought "thae twa lads ower young to gang thegither." So Moffat went to Africa while Williams went to the South Sea to become the first martyr of Erromanga.

When Mr. Spear left Manchester his "academy" became extinct, and some few years later a fresh institution was started at Blackburn. In its turn this, too, was



LANCASHIRE INDEPENDENT COLLEGE, WHALLEY RANGE.

in 1839 removed to Manchester. Land was purchased at Whalley Range from old Samuel Brooks, and in 1843 the Lancashire Independent College was opened under the presidency of Dr. Robert Vaughan, Dr. Raffles being chairman of the committee. In 1858 Dr. Vaughan was succeeded as president by Professor Henry Rogers, and he in turn by the Rev. Caleb Scott, D.D. It was under the presidency of Dr. Scott that the Extension Movement of 1875-82 was successfully conducted. The accommodation has been increased so as to provide for sixty students, and the place rendered ideally perfect as a residential college (p. 91). To an Owens man, bereft of the charms of residence, if ever he chance to stray as far as Whalley Range, "Lancashire" always seems a little oasis in the Manchester desert. It is beautifully situated and internally replete with comfort, the men are subject to no test, and within reasonable limits are under no restrictions as to conduct. The severest ordeal a new man has to go through is the "heckling" he gets on the first day. He has to mount the table, and in reply to a furious cross-fire of "bamming" questions,

give some account of himself, generally beginning with his birth. One man, afterwards well known at Owens as well as at "Lancashire," got through his "footing" very smartly. One student demanded how he felt when he was born. "As I do now—rather small," was the reply.

In matter of this freedom and of the spirit of its men "Lancashire" is noted



THE ART SCHOOL: IN THE DESIGNING ROOM.

among the religious institutions of Manchester, and some curious stories circulate in the place, illustrating the contrast between themselves and Didsbury, for instance. But, of course, they are all one-sided.

There is a charming library in the place, under the care of the kindly and able librarian, Mr. Charles Goodyear. It contains over 12,000 volumes, and amongst them are unique Baxter collections and the Raffles MSS., and much relating to the history of Dissent.

In a way, the life at "Lancashire" is ideal. The men take a three years' Arts course, for which they attend Owens, generally taking a degree. Following this they take a three or four years' Theology course under their own college tutors, and do Sunday work in the churches of the district. Arrangements can be made by which the whole of this seven years' delightful life can be had practically for nothing; yet, in spite of all, there is a difficulty in getting men to come forward. To an Owens man such apathy is incomprehensible. To him his college is, in the

main, a place of, to, for, and by, work, and all the more does he feel the charm of a residential college like "Lancashire." For Owens is distinctly the college and Victoria the university of the busy.

John Owens, the founder of the college, the greatest educational institution of the North, was a Manchester business with his father in warehouse in Carpenter's lining cutter, but later as From 1815 onwards father Street, Chorlton-on-Medlock, "The Limes," and it was unjustly, that no women in the house. Steady-going money accumulated, and reached over £168,000. The



PRINCIPAL A. J. SCOTT, M.A.

(From a Bust in Owens College Library.)

how he offered to leave this money to his schoolboy and life-long friend, George Faulkner, and how the latter refused.

"I have made my will and left thee all I have."

"Then thou may make another. I won't have it!"

Owens went home and sulked, and at the end of a week called on his friend and demanded a reason upon compulsion, and it was then that Faulkner urged him to employ the money in founding a college after his own ideas.

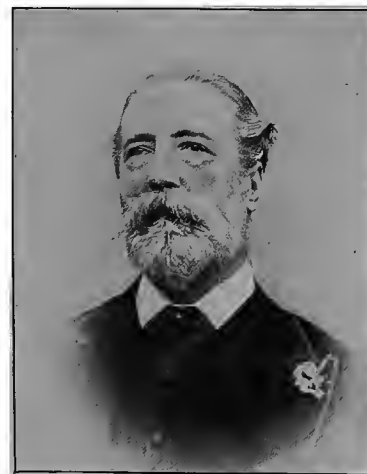


PRINCIPAL GREENWOOD.

(From a Bust in Owens College Library.)

It was high-minded advice, for the ideas of the two men were very different. Owens was a Radical and a Dissenter. He used to attend the Independent Chapel in Mosley Street until the popularity of Dr. McAll began to fill the place inconveniently, and then he left because he

merchant. He carried on a little dingy, crowded Lane, at first as a hat-a home-trade merchant. and son lived in Nelson a house then No. 41, now commonly said, though servants were allowed to live and plain in his wants, Owens' when he died his total assets story has often been told



PRINCIPAL A. W. WARD, LITT.D., LL.D.

(From a Photograph by M. Guttenberg, Limited.)

was asked to give up part of his pew—an Englishman's birthright, forsooth. But though he afterwards, and to the end of his days, attended St. Saviour's Church near his house, he remained a Dissenter at heart, and strongly opposed, above all, to university tests.

Faulkner, on the other hand, was a Churchman and a Tory. When Owens grumbled to him about the Thirty-nine Articles and the Prayer-Book, he would answer, "Well, Jack, if thou dislikes them so much why dost thou go to Church? I'm a Churchman and I like them."

Yet the result of his advice to his friend was the establishment of a college which was destined to break through and break down the religious exclusiveness of the older universities. It was not by any means the first institution that has been started in Manchester with that idea. The self-same principle underlay the old College of Arts and Sciences, founded in Manchester by Dr. Barnes at the end of last century. It underlay, too, the life of its successor, the Manchester Academy, the forerunner of the Manchester New College—the Unitarian College, which was identified with the city through so much of its life, and which had the honour of bringing John Dalton hither. It has recently been moved from London to Oxford to be quickened into budding life again.

In the case of all these predecessors of Owens College, their life at Manchester had been but a poor thing at the best. They all decayed, and it was left, by a whim of fortune, to this untutored, plodding Manchester business-man to found the first true non-sectarian university England could boast. After making provision in his will for distant relatives, John Owens left the residue of his estate (which proved to be £96,942) in trust for the foundation of a college, the fundamental and immutable rule and condition of which was to be that "the students, professors, teachers, and other officers connected with it should not be required to make any declaration as to or submit to any declaration whatever of their religious opinions, and that nothing should be introduced in the matter or mode of education in reference to any religious or theological subject which shall be reasonably offensive to the conscience of any student or of his relatives." When, in 1890, there was a big debate in the University Court as to the establishment of a theological faculty, a good deal of stress was laid on this clause, and the proposal was finally negatived by a small majority.

The selection of trustees made by Owens was completely in accordance with this fundamental condition. All shades of opinions and beliefs were represented. Besides his two executors, George Faulkner and Samuel Alcock, there were William Neild, the leader in the struggle for incorporation; James Heywood; Alderman Kay, solicitor—who was selected by his townsmen as the leader of their deputation to Louis Philippe on his proclamation. The Manchester people had made a collection, amounting to £370, which sum the deputation took in their hands, and for which they were enthusiastically honoured with a dinner to the value of several times that amount. Samuel Fletcher, another trustee, well known as a cotton-spinner and Free Trader, was a Nonconformist, a Sunday-school teacher, and an occasional “local preacher.” He had an excellent memory, which once led him into a scrape. He happened to be at Southport when Dr. McAll was visiting there. “There was a small preaching-room in Churchtown connected with the Congregational Chapel at Southport, and the services held in the afternoon and evening were often conducted by laymen. Dr. McAll had preached at Southport in the morning, and was to preach at Churchtown in the evening. Meanwhile Mr. Fletcher, who had been the doctor’s hearer in the morning, took the afternoon service at the preaching-room, and gave his audience McAll’s morning discourse. In the evening the worthy doctor, all unconscious of this, gave the Churchtown people his morning’s sermon, which led them to ask in intense surprise how it happened that Dr. McAll had repeated Mr. Fletcher’s sermon?”

The remaining trustees were Richard Cobden and Mark Philips already noted, and John Frederick Foster, chairman of the Salford Quarter Sessions—a descendant of the Fosters of Bamburgh Castle; and, finally, John Benjamin Smith, the first president of the Anti-Corn-Law League. Towards the close of the Anti-Corn-Law battle Smith’s health broke down, and he was thus deprived of his due share of credit for the result achieved. As a fact, no man did more valiantly in the agitation, and it is literally true that he was the immediate means of convincing Richard Cobden and engaging him as a thorough Free Trader.

Such were the men who had the task of shaping the destinies of Owens College. In consequence of the delay in realising the estate because of the bad times, their first meeting for educational purposes did not take place till January, 1849. Putting aside the older universities, Oxford and Cambridge, they sought



SIR HENRY ROSCOE, M.P.
(From a Photograph by M. Guttenberg,
Limited.)

classical education, pays; and to-day Owens, as a college, has a predominant reputation for science, perhaps not a little unjustly, for the Owens Arts man is as distinct in his individuality and powers as the Science man, and certainly without this insistence on a classical education the institution, as an institution, would have lacked completeness and tone.

Accordingly, the trustees determined to start with a staff of five professors; namely, for the language and literature of Greece and Rome, Professor Green-



Thomas Ashton
THOMAS ASHTON.

(From a Photograph by G. Mudd and Son.)

advice by preference from the Scottish universities, finding that these lent themselves more readily to the needs of a commercial community. Nevertheless, in the scheme which they drew up they declared in favour of a classical course, while recommending the inclusion in the curriculum of natural history, modern languages, chemistry, and commercial subjects.

The scheme is significant of much forethought. It was hard in those days (it is not easy in these) to teach a Manchester merchant that higher education,



A. Milnes Marshall

PROFESSOR A. MILNES MARSHALL, M.D., F.R.S.

(From a Photograph by Warwick Brookes.)

wood; for mathematics, Professor Sandeman; for natural history, Professor W. C. Williamson; for mental and moral philosophy and English language and literature, Professor Scott; and for chemistry, Professor E. Frankland.

In March, 1851, the college was opened in the old buildings in Quay Street, afterwards the County Court (p. 101). There is an added interest about the old Owens College from its having been the residence of Cobden, from whom the trustees took it on a seven years' lease at a rental of £200. The place was afterwards purchased by Faulkner, and the lease handed over to the

college. During the first term, which closed on the 4th of July, twenty-five students attended. In the following, the first full session, this number had grown to sixty-two. Almost immediately the college began that process of getting into touch with surrounding institutions which alone has made it what it is. It was found that the standard of school work in the district was very inadequate as a preparation for the college, and for a time the question was whether the entrance examination should be lowered and the college brought down to the level of a training school. The resolution was taken, and stuck to through the evil times that came upon it later, to keep up the standard, with the result, as has been said, that the college has literally pulled up the schools to its own idea and demand.

That the college did persist in this attitude through good and ill report



ENTRANCE CORRIDOR, OWENS COLLEGE.

was in no small measure due to the personality of Principal Scott. Scott was one of the most remarkable figures of his time. The son of a minister of the Scottish church, he was himself prepared for that vocation and received a licence as a preacher from the presbytery of Paisley, but his mind was too wide ever to retain the impress of the dogmatic Calvinism of the Church of Scotland. He drifted away from it, and when Edward Irving invited him to London to become his missionary to the poor he was glad to get away.

In 1848 Scott was appointed Professor of English Literature in University College, London, and three years later became the principal of Owens College. His bust (p. 93) stands in the library, a speaking likeness, say those who know, and impressive to the merest beholder by the force and deep-thoughted earnestness of the features. It is difficult to gauge or analyse Scott's influence on the first generation of Owens.

One kindly hand (Mr. Harwood's, surely, or was it Mr. Finlayson's?) has given us a delicate little vignette. "I attended all his lectures, and well do I remember those frequent times when he would suddenly turn half round in his chair, and drawing his gown over his knees and closing his eyes, would rhapsodise so that one almost felt one's heart beating and brain whirring. Even now as I write I can hear that vibrating voice and see again that sunlit room, which was to me a very grove of Academe, though it only looked out upon St. John's churchyard."

In respect of the *force* of this personal influence Professor Adamson, Scott's successor in the philosophy class, was his equal, though in a different way. Probably there has been no name connected with the college more widely honoured than Adamson's—*i.e.*, not merely in Manchester, but in quarters where Manchester names are not always current or citable; and nearer home the influence and personal teaching of none has been more intensely felt and creative. In 1893 Prof. Adamson was appointed to the chair of Philosophy at Aberdeen, in succession to the late Prof. Minto.

In proportion as such influence is immediate and personal it loses in its written expression, but all the more was it in Scott's case valuable for a young institution like Owens, adding spirit and warmth. The tone and elevation of the college to-day would not have been what they are, if a less-gifted and lower-natured man had been its first principal. As an administrator, however, Scott was not a success, and the unique growth of the place is to be attributed rather to the tact, judgment, and self-devotion of his successor, Principal Greenwood (p. 93), who guided the college through thirty-two years of trial and of phenomenal development. In the early years Dr. Greenwood had all the duties of the classical chair to fill, besides those of the principal. Professor Christie was appointed to take the history subjects in 1853, and he afterwards became Professor of History, Law, and Political Economy, and remained throughout one of the most discriminating and most strong-handed builders of the triumphant institution.

In 1869 further relief was afforded to Dr. Greenwood by the appointment of Dr. Wilkins as Professor of Latin, but until his resignation in 1889 the former continued his Greek and New Testament lectures, with a devotion and refinement and elegance of scholarship which will long be remembered by Owens men.

In the early years of Greenwood's principalship the number of students had been steadily declining, and the Manchester newspapers made short work of the

matter. "The fact is certain; the college is a mortifying failure," etc. At the same time the Professor of Chemistry had resigned, and the oracle fell foul of his successor, Professor H. E. Roscoe. Since then Sir Henry Roscoe (p. 96) has come to be one of the most popular men in Manchester, and his name a tower of strength to the college. He is the son of Henry Roscoe, barrister-at-law, and grandson of William Roscoe, the well-known writer on Italian history, and in his time a member of the House of Commons. It was under the influence of Bunsen at Heidelberg that the future populariser of science laid the foundations of his renown in the chemical world, a renown that has reflected strongly on the college. When he first came to Manchester there were not more than thirty students attending the ordinary day-classes of the college; to-day the chemistry course at Owens draws hundreds of students, and the lecture theatre and laboratories are among the finest in the world, and supply professors and teachers to almost every science school in the land. Much of this spirit on the science side has been due to the personality of the popular professor. His manner in a class-room was the very opposite to conventional—there was a certain mixture of Yorkshire bluntness and Lancashire straightness—occasionally, indeed, passing into impatience.

In 1884 Roscoe was knighted for his services in connection with the Technical Education Commission, and in the following year he was elected M.P. for South Manchester, and in 1887 President of the British Association, when it held its annual congress in Manchester. Together with Professor Balfour Stewart he inaugurated, in 1866, a series of science lectures for the people. They lasted down to 1879, and among the lecturers were Professors Jevons, Huggins and Huxley, Sir John Lubbock, and Dr. Carpenter.

This popular lecture scheme was, and is, only one of the many instances of the skill with which Owens College has throughout its history risen to the needs of the town and of the occasion. The night-class movement has been another case of this adaptability. From the early years of the college night courses had been given both for general purposes, and especially for schoolmasters; but it was not till the close of the Session 1860-61 that an impetus was given to the movement by the union with Owens College of the Manchester Working Men's College. The result of the union was that 235 evening students joined in 1861, as against 102 the year before.

The Working Men's College had been set on foot by a number of Manchester gentlemen in 1858, in imitation of the institution then working in London under F. D. Maurice, which had itself been suggested by a Sheffield College started, in 1842, to make up for the shortcomings of the Mechanics' Institutes.

Three colleges were begun in Manchester—in Ancoats, held in the schoolroom of St. Andrew's Church; the Manchester College; and a third in Salford. The absorption of such an institution was an immense accession of strength to Owens. Indeed the growth of the place to its present enormous size is in no small measure due to such absorptions repeated again and again. For instance, already before the erection of the new college, the collections of the Manchester Natural History Society had been transferred to the Owens trustees.

This old society, consisting of gentlemen naturalists, started in 1821 with the purchase of a collection which had formerly belonged to John Leigh Philips, the last person in Manchester who fought a duel. They kept their treasures at first in rooms in St. Ann's Square, but ultimately built the block in Peter Street afterwards occupied by the Young Men's Christian Association; and on the occasion of the visit to Manchester of the British Association in 1842, the collection was much praised. It was strengthened at a later date by the accession of the Geological Society, which also added its collection to Owens.

These were not the only signs of growth in the old college. Before it migrated it had added to its professors Osborne Reynolds as the first occupant of the newly-created chair of Engineering; James Bryce, who within two months of his appointment was elected Professor of Civil Law at Oxford; and Stanley Jevons, who had at first been appointed college tutor, but a year later was made Professor of Political Economy and Logic; and classes for harmony were formed under Dr. Bridge, then organist at the Manchester Cathedral, but now at Westminster Abbey. Some of those giants still survive, but one—the lawgiver in that little Israel, Jevons, slow of speech and deep of thought—is not. In all who knew him there is a deep reverence for the memory of Jevons—his simple, tender, nature free from any touch of sordid ambition, though his reputation as a statistician, economist, and logician was European. When still a young man he deliberately threw up £630 a year, his income as surveyor to the Sydney Mint, in order to return to England to study the moral sciences and economics so as to fit himself for

some wider sphere; and fate was kind to him in his life if not in his death, for among the many honoured names connected with Owens few shine brighter than his.

The need of a new building for such a growing institution was long felt. The matter had been mooted in 1865, but at that time the state of trade was unfavourable; but in February, 1867, an influential meeting was held in the Town Hall under



COUNTY COURT, OLD OWENS COLLEGE, QUAY STREET.

the presidency of Robert Neill, the Mayor, and there all the good old English way was gone over again. There were motions and resolutions and the appointing of committees and sub-committees, and a diligent informing of the public by circulars, and milking of the same by canvassers. Those who decry this good old way as not productive of a sufficiently "national" institution should have a little regard for fact; Owens College is not a bad outcome of voluntary effort, for such it was, pure and simple. It was born of the Manchester spirit, and grew and expanded by the Manchester spirit, without—until but yesterday—any of that recognition or aid from the Government which has been bestowed on colleges in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. The committee set out to raise £100,000. The general result of the Extension movement has been the raising of more than twice that sum. The first stone of the new building was laid in September, 1870, by the Duke of Devonshire—the old duke, the first president, whose interest in the place never flagged nor wavered amid his numberless occupations and engagements. His son, the present duke—Lord Hartington, we had almost said—is the president to-day, and it is

pleasing to think that such a family should thus be forming a tradition of honourable connection with Owens, and gracing it with mutual prestige.

This extension movement, on which the Parliamentary Seal was set by the Acts of 1870 and 1871, probably owes more to Mr. Thomas Ashton than to any other man (p. 96). To the world Mr. Ashton is best known as one of the largest of Lancashire cotton-spinners. The mills of the firm, Thomas Ashton and Sons, employing about 2,000 hands, are situated at Hyde, for which division of Cheshire his son, Thomas Gair Ashton, was member in the Liberal interest. Mr. Ashton himself is an ardent Liberal. In the course of 1889 he entertained Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone at Ford Bank, and years previously he had been offered a baronetcy by the Liberal leader. The honour was respectfully declined, his ambition lying in another direction. None of the many loyal supporters have brought to the work of the Court of Governors and Council of the college such unstinted enthusiasm and essential business qualities as has this "father of the college." It is not merely that he has been a large benefactor; he has been a wise leader, and as rare a canvasser as Sir John Potter himself. If there is any building scheme to be launched there is generally a little joke about a big dinner at Ford Bank, and then a subscription list. It was entirely owing to his forethought that the present splendid site of Owens College was secured, and much of the success of the building schemes, both of 1870 and of 1884, was due to his active canvass and influence.

Before it had got into its new home the constitution of the college had been recast by the Bill of 1871, incorporating the college under a different trust and with extended powers, and by its union in 1872 with the Royal Manchester School of Medicine. This school had been founded in 1822 by Thomas Turner. It was the first medical school established in the provinces, and on account of its excellent equipment was allowed, in 1836, to attach the prefix "Royal" to its name. Dr. Turner lived for the greater part of his life in Mosley Street, and nevertheless attained a ripe old age, by reason, surely, of his good temper.

The new buildings of the medical school were completed and opened in October, 1874, and it was soon afterwards graced by the transfer thither of the fine library of the Manchester Medical Society. They have since been extended, and a further building scheme was set on foot in 1892, towards which about £20,000 was quickly given. The buildings, designed by Mr. Alfred Waterhouse, R.A., are



OWENS COLLEGE AND THE MANCHESTER MUSEUM.

now complete (Plate 22, p. 97). In addition to this, in the course of 1892, an important benefaction was conferred on the medical side of the college by the Whitworth trustees, in the gift by them of the Stanley Grove Estate for hospital purposes, in the hope that, without the college in any way meddling with hospital management, the interests of the sick poor may be advanced hand in hand with greater facilities for clinical training to the students.

Another movement, which arose out of the removal into the new buildings, was that for the higher education of women in Manchester. The Owens College Act of 1871 gave the governors power to admit women students, and in 1874 one class held by Professor Wilkins had been attended by seventy ladies to the immense satisfaction of the Manchester and Salford Association for the Higher Education of Women. But the times were not ripe for such advanced action. Certain of the professors expressed themselves willing to admit ladies to their lectures as visitors, but as a body the Court of Governors declared by a large majority against their admission as students in mixed classes, whilst assuring the Manchester Association aforesaid that if they would provide the necessary accommodation of class-room the college would co-operate in the governing, teaching, and examining of it. This the Association managed to do by the help of a public subscription, and the result was the opening of the Women's College in Brunswick Street in October, 1877. At first it had no organic connection with Owens, but when the college had bloomed into the Victoria University it was moved that the classes at Brunswick Street might qualify for Victoria degrees, and for that purpose the Women's College had to be incorporated with Owens. This was accomplished satisfactorily in 1883, and Miss Edith C. Wilson appointed tutor of the department. As a result, about four years later, when the women came up for the degree exams. they simply trotted away with everything, and the authorities were brought face to face with the ghastly prospect of the discouraged, beaten, and forsaken males losing heart, giving up and leaving them with nothing of a college but the walls.

At present the regulations with regard to the education of the women students may be described as the following. The more advanced classes in the college buildings are equally open to men and to duly qualified women. The men's elementary classes are provided in Brunswick Street; and laboratory instruction is given in the neighbouring High School for Girls by college teachers. Thus, in

every direction the opening of the new buildings was the commencement of a notable expansion in the college work and life.

The Chair of Latin was separated from the old dual Chair of Latin and Greek, and Dr. A. S. Wilkins, of St. John's, Cambridge, and Gold Medallist of London, was appointed Professor. If, as we are told, Owens suffers from a lack of *esprit de corps* in the students, it is well that the reputation of the staff in some way compensates. The associateship and the various fellowships attached to the college tend

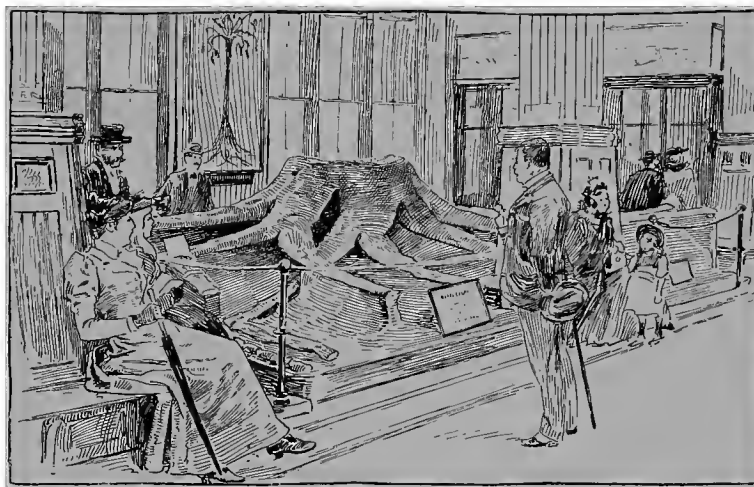


BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY, OWENS COLLEGE.

to foster something of a corporate spirit, but from the nature of the case it can never be as strong as at the older universities. A good deal of the reputation of the place will, therefore, continue to rest on the achievements of its professors who have thus a double burden to bear—a heavy teaching duty and this moral obligation to original work. It speaks volumes for the place and the men that they have met this double obligation in so distinguished a manner. Besides his translation, together with Mr. England, now warden of the Hulme Hall of Residence, of Curtius' great work on Greek etymology, Professor Wilkins is known over Europe for his edition of the *De Oratore*, and his writings on Greek and Roman antiquities. In class his power of drawing out and inciting by mere suggestion is supreme, but woe to the unhappy wight who fails to rise to the occasion!

Another new creation at that time, along with the Chair of Latin was the

Chair of Geology, to which, in October, 1874, Boyd Dawkins was elected. His is probably one of the best-known names in science in or out of Manchester, and his figure most familiar as a popular lecturer. He knows an uncomfortable amount about the quality and nature of our ancestors in England, and one wonders how he can retain any respect for our generation. Perhaps this is reflected in his treatment of the unhappy members of the geology excursion class. Now, be it known, there is such a class in connection with the geology lectures. Those of the members who are sufficiently hardy—not to say foolhardy—meet at, let us say, Central Station on a Saturday afternoon, take a fare and a quarter ticket to, let us say, Buxton; they get there and get off, and Professor Dawkins leads the way. We have been solemnly assured that he walks ten miles an hour, and speaks



A BAY IN THE MUSEUM, OWENS COLLEGE.

at the rate of three hundred words a minute: "You will notice, gentlemen! You will notice, gentlemen!" and all the while the pumped and panting and toiling students find it difficult to keep level, in any sense, with their famous teacher.

By his side in popularity and influence stood Milnes Marshall, professor of Biology (p. 96). His lamented death on Scafell, in January of 1894, left a gap that will not easily be filled, and that, too, in a wider circle than the college life merely. As president of the Manchester Microscopical Society, and as the most popular lecturer under the University Extension Scheme, Professor Marshall was a familiar figure to Manchester and south-east Lancashire. At the 1891 meeting of the British Association he presided over the biology section, and his address was singled out by the *Times* for its scholarliness and the unique interest of the points raised—questions of heredity and development. At the college he was a great favourite, especially in the class-room, by reason of his enthusiasm, geniality, and stimulating earnestness.

Nor should another name be forgotten—that of the old Registrar, who saw the

place grow from infancy. Mr. J. Holme Nicholson told the associates of the college at the dinner which they gave to him and his like-minded and active successor, Mr. H. W. Holder, that the secret of the harmony that had always reigned between him and the students was the feeling he always had that he was dealing with gentlemen—words that must have indicated at the moment mutual pride and deserved mutual gratulation.

The mention of university extension brings us back to the college, and to the last great change in its life. It was in 1880 that the charter of the Victoria University was granted, followed, in 1883, by the supplementary charter conferring powers to grant medical degrees. The idea of a university was not new to Manchester. It had been spoken of in 1641 in a petition of many choice wits to Ferdinando Lord Fairfax. It was moved in 1789, and again in 1836, but it was not until the growth of Owens that the scheme became possible, and not until the advent of a formative mind that the occasion had come. To Dr. Ward, more than to any other man, belongs the credit of founding the great northern university. It was not merely that he had been led by long acquaintance with German academic life to see the latent possibilities in a provincial university in England, it was rather that by his own altitude of conception and bearing, and by his own persistency and steadfastness of effort he brought the question within the range of practical discussion, and gave it tone and lent it force.

Dr. Greenwood, the then Principal, became the first Vice-Chancellor, and he was succeeded by Dr. Ward, who also, in 1889, became Principal on the resignation of Dr. Greenwood. Few men were ever more to the fashion, or to the purple, born. To an outsider Dr. Ward is as inscrutable in his impartiality and judicialness as he is august in presence and learning. To those who know him he is geniality and benevolence itself (p. 93). Dr. Ward is a Peterhouse man, of which college he was Fellow. He graduated first class in classics, but has, since his connection with Owens, become identified with the study of history and dramatic literature, his great work on which earned him the coveted degree of D.Litt. of Cambridge. In the founding of the university he worked hand in hand with Dr. Greenwood and Professors Roscoe and Morgan, and it was in their joint names that the first pamphlet on the subject was privately circulated among the members of the Court and Council.

At first the college thought only of itself, and when, in July, 1877, the memorial

was presented to the Privy Council, it prayed only for a university charter for Owens, which was to be styled the University of Manchester.

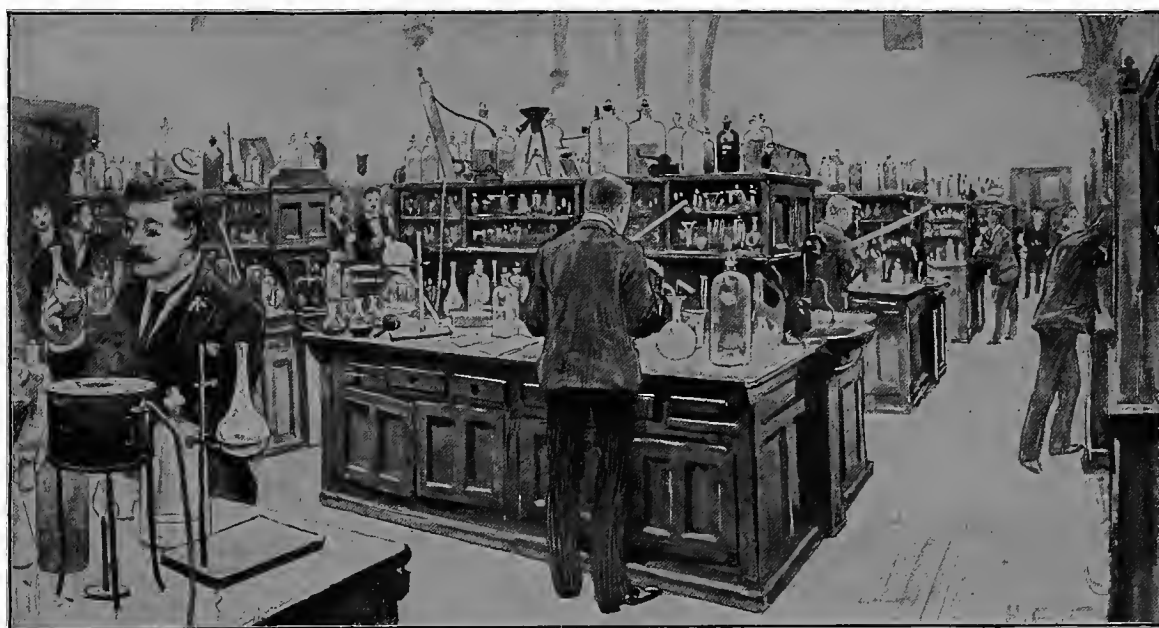
The result was opposition on the part of the Yorkshire College in Leeds. And it was in consequence of this opposition that the scheme of a Manchester university pure and simple was relinquished in favour of that of a northern university without any local name. And this was the tenor of the charter when it was granted in April, 1880. At first, and, of course, the only college of the university was Owens, and the president of the college—the noble, good, old Duke of Devonshire—became the Chancellor of the university, to be succeeded in due course by Earl Spencer.

But within a marvellously short time quite a little revolution took place. Stirred up with a godly jealousy, Liverpool girded up its loins, threw itself into the work, added to her college pile after pile—subscribed £100,000 and more to equip it, and with as composed a face as possible, tapped at the university door for admission. In 1885 University College, Liverpool, became the second college of the Victoria University. Three years later Yorkshire College, Leeds, was included, and now the Victoria University is a firmly-founded triangular body, with the perpendicular from its centre of gravity well within its base, what time it hath received Government aid to the amount of £2,000 a year. This sudden extension of business connection made some Manchester people a little cross. They could not separate the university from Manchester and Owens College, and thought there was a loss of prestige in dividing the honour with Liverpool and Leeds. In reality the very opposite was the case. In years to come the Victoria University will be to the North of England what the older universities have been, and will be, to the whole—all that, and something more.

For the spirit and the needs of the North, “the rude, the true, the hardy North,” are peculiar to her. And this the highest institution she can boast has to bear the impress of these needs and this spirit; and it does so already. And Manchester has the credit of founding the institution which has thus risen to the needs of the place and the time, of stamping it with its spirit and of giving it as a heritage to that North which is rightly styled in more senses than one “the backbone of England.” It is a high and proud deed, and all the prouder because of the infinite growth of which the movement is capable if led by men

of wide mind knowing the season when to take occasion by the hand and make the university bounds and buildings wider yet. If Manchester wishes to have the lion's share of the glory—as she deserves—let her take care to secure and provide becoming university offices and buildings for meetings and examinations, apart altogether from Owens College.

It would be difficult to give in so rapid a sketch anything like a full idea of the



CHEMICAL LABORATORY, OWENS COLLEGE.

work of Owens as a college or of Victoria as a university. Speaking of the former, there are now, practically, 1,000 day students on the roll, and a matter of 400 evening students. There are classes for more advanced work for evening students, while the more elementary evening instruction is left to other institutions in the town and district. In addition to this, the system of Monday evening lectures open to the public at large has been developed, with a view to the widening of the popular interest in literary and scientific studies. The work of the day classes qualifies for every degree at the Victoria University which can be obtained of any university in the land except in divinity. In especial as a medical school the place has no equal; and now that medical degrees can be obtained at home, it promises to grow into the medical school of the North *par excellence*.

Latest of all, another department has been added. In virtue of a minute of Privy council of May, 1889, the college is now recognised as a day training college

under the Government. Under the powers conferred by that minute, the Council of the college, acting as the local committee of the Manchester Day Training College (*i.e.*, itself), threw open their classes to teachers in elementary schools desirous of obtaining the advantages of a university course alongside of the two years' curriculum generally provided under the system of Queen's scholarships, which is an English way of providing for a normal school—*i.e.*, for the education of the pupil-teacher. For practice in teaching, the schools of the Manchester School Board, as well as others, were placed at the disposal of the Council, an arrangement by which the students were able to familiarise themselves with elementary schools and school work of very varied character. Up to the session 1891-92 the Day Training College classes were open only to men, but another departure has



THE CHEMICAL THEATRE AND LABORATORIES.

now been made. Permission having been obtained from the Education Department, a new department for women teachers was added to the existing course, and placed in organic connection with the college department for women.

Finally, an important step in the direction of establishing a direct organic connection with the primary schools has also been taken. By the consent of the Hulme trustees, and aided by a bequest from Mrs. Henry Rogers (already a benefactress of the

college), and by a benefaction from the trustees of the late Mr. Gaskell, of Christ Church, Hulme, the college has been able to consolidate the various minor entrance scholarships, which were previously too small to do either much good or much harm, into larger scholarships sufficient for the pursuit of a degree. They thus form the stepping-stone from school to university, and provide the college with a natural feeding-ground. This is really the great desideratum in the Manchester—in indeed in the English system of education.

So much for Owens. And what the college is doing for Manchester the university is doing equally for its three constituencies—Manchester, Liverpool, and Leeds. It has already established close relationship between its academic self and surrounding institutions of a more popular character—the Lancashire and Cheshire Mechanics' Institutions, for whose union the university now acts as examiner, as it also does for the Manchester Chamber of Commerce in their commercial certificates scheme. And, more widely still, the public at large is brought into touch with it by the system of university extension lectures. This movement is of course, but not merely, an imitation of the lead of the older universities.

But to leave the university, which is not now a purely Manchester institution, and come back to the college, which is, kindly reference must be made, in concluding, to some of its worthies of to-day—to its old treasurer, Alfred Neild, the son of one of the original trustees and benefactors, and now the treasurer of the university; to the present treasurer, Alderman Joseph Thompson, the historian of the college, a literary spirit in the City Council, and an informing, active business spirit in the Court of Governors of Owens, a fine instance of the union of these widely differing qualifications, and an interesting figure, too, as the descendant of one of the old worthy Dissenting families.

Mr. Thompson was born in 1833 at Manchester and educated at Amersham and Owens. He subsequently became a cotton manufacturer at Ardwick, succeeding to the possession of mills erected by his father and grandfather. He is a trustee of the Lancashire Independent College, and a member of the Council of Owens since its first meeting, and since 1886 the treasurer. In 1865 he entered the Town Council of Manchester as a representative of Ardwick Ward, and was afterwards returned unopposed no less than five times. Of his work and esteem in connection with the City Council we have already spoken.

The last name on the honourable roll is that of Charles Beyer, the deceased member of the firm of Beyer and Peacock, and deservedly styled the second founder of the college. Beyer's parents, Saxony handloom weavers, were so poor that when he had to be sent away to the Polytechnic School at Dresden, he was obliged to eke out his living by keeping time books in workshops and cutting down his dinners to three pfennig, one halfpenny sterling, or as Carlyle would say, by drawing his belt one hole tighter. Coming to Manchester at the age of twenty-one, he obtained, through the influence of the firm of S. L. Behrens, employment as a draughtsman at Sharp, Roberts and Company. Roberts could invent, but he was slow in putting his ideas on paper. Beyer had a facile pencil, and he soon became Roberts's right-hand man. He rose to be mechanical head of the establishment, and afterwards started in partnership with Richard Peacock, founding the great Gorton engineering firm.

Beyer's name will always be coupled with that of Sir Joseph Whitworth, as those of the greatest benefactors of the college since Owens. The total extent to which the place has benefited under Beyer's will is over £100,000, and, when the museum buildings were labouring under a heavy debt, the Whitworth Legatees contributed £25,000 towards its extinction. In addition these latter have given large sums for other departments of the college, and quite recently enriched it by the purchase of the library of the late Professor Freeman. These latter buildings were erected in 1884 at a cost of £80,000, after the designs by Mr. A. Waterhouse, R.A. They now contain the most perfect series of biological laboratories (pp. 104, 109) in the world, besides the natural history collection (p. 105); and the whole forms a worthy tribute to the names of the two men, Beyer and Whitworth, whose memory it preserves, and whose generosity was noble and notable, even in the history of a college whose life has been an unbroken record of unstinting generosity and spirit on the part of individuals.

CHAPTER VI.

CHURCH AND CHAPEL.

“Wus yo at church o’ Sunday morning, John?”—*Byrom’s “A Lancashire Dialogue.”*

The Old Parish and Its Earliest Chapels—Trinity Chapel, Salford, and Its Pious Founder—St. Ann’s Church and Militant Whiggism—The Last of St. Mary’s—St. Thomas’s, Pendleton—St. Paul’s and the Bennett Street Schools—St. John’s, Deansgate, and the Byroms—St. Peter’s, Mosley Street—St. Clement’s, St. Mark’s, St. George’s—The Four Canonry Churches—A Remarkable Diocesan Agitation—The Hulme Churches—“There’s No Place Like Hulme”—All Saints’, St. Mary’s, St. Luke’s, St. Jude’s—The Catholics in Manchester—“Out of Much Tribulation”—The Vaughans, a Notable Family—Wesleyanism in Manchester—Wesley and Clayton—The First Society and their Chapel—Three Manchester Men and the “Plan of Pacification”—Jabez Bunting, the Pontiff of Wesleyanism—Oldham Street and Old Napier—Methodist Organisation—The New Connexion.



ST. ANN'S PASSAGE.

THERE is nowadays a little ambiguity, or a danger of it, in the use of the term the parish of Manchester. Historically, and in most instances, parishes are found identical with the township, but in the case of Manchester, owing to the wide extent of the manor of the Greslets, this was by no means so. Besides the township of Manchester the parish included and includes a matter of twenty-nine additional townships, some of which, because of their remoteness, are not even yet included in “Greater Manchester;” for instances, Denton, Didsbury, Droylsden, Failsworth, Heaton Norris, Stretford, etc. There is a vivid interest

attaching to the church history of many of these townships, but they lie outside our scope. Practically for our more immediate purpose, the interest of the ecclesiastical history of Manchester until comparatively recent times is confined to the single township of Manchester itself. But this is not the only process of narrowing which the term has had to undergo. When the Parish of Manchester Division Act was passed in 1850 the numerous “districts” already then existing were made parishes, and more have been pared off since, and the dry remainder biscuit—the leavings—now stands assigned, to the Cathedral Church as its parish.

In attempting an account of the Manchester churches so much must be premised to avoid or excuse any ambiguity. The part which the mother Church, now the Cathedral, has played throughout has been already summarised. Practically for two

and a half centuries the church stood alone within its own township or narrower parish. The out-townships were provided for by chapels-of-ease, as at Denton, Newton, and so on, and these have become in each case the ancestors of the modern rectorial parishes. All these stood outside the Manchester church system, properly speaking, and the development of that system, which was due to the growth of the trade and population of Manchester itself, has no reference to such chapels at all.



ST. ANN'S CHURCH, FROM THE ALLEY.

There is, however, one instance—that of Trinity Chapel, Salford—which must be considered as an exception from this general statement. It is as difficult for the historian as it is for the casual outsider to separate Manchester and Salford. And in its origin it is just as impossible to dissociate Salford Chapel from Manchester Church. The chapel, now the Church of the Sacred Trinity, was founded, in 1634, by Humphrey Booth, who, mostly at his own cost, did finish it and endow it with £20 of lands per annum.

A century afterwards, in 1751, the chapel was taken down and rebuilt as a stone

edifice "of the Doric order, with a Gothic steeple." The tower was, several years since, rebuilt, and in 1886 the pews in the nave were cut down into low, open, comfortable seats, choir-stalls were placed in a ritual chancel, and the organ was brought down from the gallery (Plate 23). The present incumbent is the Rev. H. F. Gore-Booth, M.A., of the knightly family of the Gore-Booths, of Lissadell, co. Sligo. Mr. Booth was educated for four years at the Edinburgh Academy and Glasgow College, and took his degree at Cambridge as senior *Op.* after the usual time at Corpus Christi. He was ordained in 1876, and became curate of St. Mary's, Newington, removing, in 1878, to St. Saviour's, Hoxton, where he remained for four years, under the late Dean Oakley. From Hoxton he moved to Salford in 1885.

After Salford Chapel there was no further church-building within the town's limits until the beginning of the eighteenth century, when an Act of Parliament (1708) was passed for the erection of St. Ann's Church and the laying out of St. Ann's Square. The foundation stone was laid in the following year, and in 1712 the building was complete, and dedicated to St. Ann, in compliment to Lady Ann Bland of Hulme Hall, who was one of the warmest supporters of the scheme.

For half a century the ecclesiastical history of Manchester is an amusing tale of the double rivalry, political and fashional, between the Cathedral and St. Ann's—th' Owd Church and the New—the Tory, not to say Jacobite, fellows and the Whig rector. Lady Ann was the leader of Low Church fashion in the town, and she had, we are told, her public days as well as private, when she endeavoured in her coach and four to outshine Madam Drake, the leader of the High Church fashionables. She is said on one occasion to have been so annoyed by the brilliant display of Stuart tartan by the High Church ladies in their new assembly-room that she led her party in orange ribbons into the street and danced by moonlight. With the exception of the steeple, the exterior of the church is what it was in the days which witnessed this old-time foolishness. Originally there had been a tottering cupola, but in 1777 this was taken down, and replaced by a spire, which also proved an eyesore or a dread to the inhabitants, and vanished soon afterwards. In its place a parapet wall was carried round the top of the tower, and so it remains to-day, looking very much as if intended for a tank reservoir for a factory. The only restoration the interior of the church underwent until the days of the present rector was in 1837, when the windows were cleaned, etc., to the joy of a certain parishioner, who "had heard

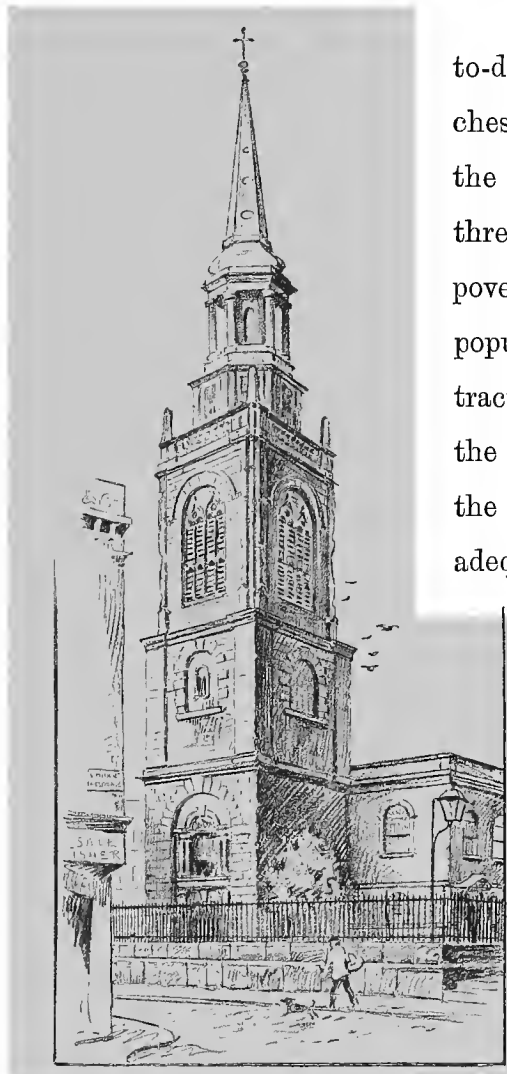


CHURCH OF THE SACRED TRINITY, SALFORD.

Mr. M'Grath preach for two years, but now for the first time he had seen him." Under Canon Tonge, however, very considerable alterations have been made, after designs by Mr. A. Waterhouse, R.A. There are three most beautiful windows, designed by F. J. Shields. The churchyard has seen more considerable alterations. At first St. Ann's had taken half of Acre's Field, where the fair used to be held, and for a long time the only approach to the square from King Street was through the churchyard. In Canon Parkinson's days, however, a footway, six feet wide, was made round the church, and more recently the rector has thrown down the rails and made the land up to the church wall provisionally public (p. 113). The present rector is the Rev. Richard Tonge, honorary canon of the Cathedral, and principal surrogate of the Consistory Court.

The second church to be established within the township was St. Mary's, which is now at last no more. Despite antiquarian zeal and assertiveness, the Church of St. Mary's does not, nor does any possible predecessor of it, go back to the times of the Normans or the Romans, any more than it does to the times of the Flood. The Act for its erection passed in the twenty-sixth year of George II., the foundation stone was laid in 1753, and three years later the place was consecrated. It was held to be Doric in style, but when it was objected that the architect was not learned in his profession Aston chivalrously defended him and it, by declaring that, like the dramas of the immortal Shakspeare, it rose superior to art. The most striking feature in the old church was the tower, 180 feet in height, and the lantern, composed of eight Ionic pillars supporting the spire, on which was mounted a globe and cross (p. 116). These latter items were on one occasion bent out of the perpendicular by a violent gale, and remained so for some time before they could be removed. Thirty years later, in 1854, the spire itself, the highest in the town, was taken down, and now the church has followed the spire. The last service was held there on Saturday, October 4th, 1890, and on the occasion a curious illustration was afforded of the woeful neglect of everything connected with the place. Canon Tonge was compelled to stop short in reading the lesson, for the rest of the chapter was missing from the Bible, and he was obliged to borrow another. Afterwards the congregation, such as it was, headed by the churchwardens, proceeded to St. Ann's, and ceremoniously delivered over to Canon Tonge the guardianship of St. Mary's font, the care of which, however, proved to be a

sinecure, as someone seems to have borrowed for an indefinite period the font, the communion plate, etc. The two parishes are still distinct, each with its own churchwardens, and its separate rights preserved intact.



OLD ST. MARY'S CHURCH, DEANSGATE.
(From a Drawing by J. J. Alley. Spire Restored.)

By comparison with the ecclesiastical wealth of to-day this church provision for eighteenth-century Manchester strikes one as ludicrously insufficient. Up to the middle of the century there were practically only three churches for Manchester and one for Salford. The poverty was due, of course, to the smallness of the population, and in some measure also to the superior attractions of the collegiate church. With the growth of the town, however, came the necessity for building, and the call was responded to, though not, perhaps, in an adequate measure. By the close of the century a

second and a third church had been added to Salford—St. Stephen's and St. Thomas's. The first of these was founded in 1794 by the Rev. Mosley Cheek, who was afterwards chaplain to the New Bailey. It was at this church, in the first quarter of the present century, some little time before his own church in the Crescent was built for him, that the Rev. Hugh Stowell was curate under the then incumbent, Ebenezer Booth. Stowell at that time had lodgings in Bolton Street. Under the present rector, the Rev. H.

Thompson Jones, M.A., of St. Alban's Hall, Oxford, the schools have attained a more than average height of efficiency, especially in the day-classes.

St. Thomas's, Pendleton, was erected in 1766 at the expense of Mr. Samuel Brierley and Mr. Thomas Fletcher, on land belonging to the former. This church was originally occupied by the Wesleyan Methodists, but was consecrated in 1776. It was the first of the daughter churches of the ancient parish church of Eccles, and was a small brick building with a bell turret, and measured only 19 yards by 14. The cost of the structure, which was planned for 500 worshippers, was about

£700. The first minister was Mr. James Pedley, one of the masters of the Grammar School, a man of some eccentricity, as was shown in his epitaph. The present church is from designs by Francis Goodwin, London, and Richard Lane, Manchester, and was intended to seat about 1,600. The foundation stone was laid in September, 1829, and the consecration took place a year later. Under the



SATURDAY IN ARDWICK GREEN: ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH.

incumbency of Mr. Ambrose Lane the old chapel, after having served for a time as a cholera hospital, was pulled down to make way for the beautiful mission church of St. Ann, built at the expense of Mr. Herbert Birley and his family. In 1872 the schools in Huskisson Street were added to St. Thomas's at a cost of £3,160, towards which the Birleys also contributed largely. Under the present incumbent, the Rev. Edward Gull, M.A., of Merton College, Oxford, a new school at Primrose Hill has been built at a cost of £3,500, besides a new parsonage, and a restoration of the church itself undertaken, at a combined cost of about £5,000.

In Manchester itself—*i.e.*, not including Salford—the addition of churches within the same period of time had been much more considerable—St. Paul's, St. John's, Deansgate, St. Peter's, St. Michael's, St. James's, St. Clement's—six churches in all.

St. Paul's was erected in Turner Street, in 1765. It was afterwards enlarged in 1788, but in 1880 it was re-erected at New Cross (Oldham Road). In 1875 the Turner Street site was purchased by Messrs. J. and N. Philips, under powers conferred by the Manchester Corporation Waterworks and Improvements Act of that year, and it is now covered by part of their warehouse. During the erection of the new church Messrs. Philips put up an iron temporary structure for the congregation. The new church, which was consecrated in 1878, and is situated at New Cross, is built largely of the materials taken from the old, but in quite a different style. It is Lombardo-Gothic in order, and was designed by John Aldred Scott, and its total cost has been over £18,000. (Plate 24.)

Attached to the church, under a deed of trust, are the Bennett Street Sunday-schools, the most historic in the city. Five years after Raikes opened his Sunday-school in Gloucester (1780) an association was formed in Manchester for the maintenance of public Sunday-schools. At first the Church and all the sects were united in the work, its president being a layman, Sir John Parker Mosley, and its secretary Clowes, the distinguished minister of St. John's. But this union and unity held not long. In 1800 it was decided to call some of the schools Church of England, to be governed by the clergy and their friends, leaving the same right to the Dissenters for their schools. Under this arrangement the Church of England schools were attached to various churches, and in the year 1805 St. Paul's had no less than six affiliated to her—Gun Street, Turner Street, Richmond Street, Miles Platting, Dean Street, and Primrose Street. To the Church of St. Clement's was attached the George Leigh Street School, and it was this school which became the ancestor of Bennett Street.

Bennett Street was opened in 1819, having been built to accommodate 2,500 scholars, at a cost of £2,524. It was in design as ugly as practical, plain common-sense could make it, but generations of Manchester men have learned to reverence and love the place. It has been remarkable for its development of the self-help idea, and for the numerous organisations that have sprung up in consequence—the library and educational society, and the Mechanics' Institute, if it can so be called, which was founded in 1839, and which was one of the means of bringing out William Hepworth Dixon, at one time editor of the *Athenæum*.

By an alteration in the church organisation these schools were taken from



NEW CROSS AND ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.

St. Clement's in 1824, and attached to the then nearer St. Paul's, and though St. Paul's has since removed, the connection remains. Besides Bennett Street, St. Paul's has its own Church of England voluntary day-school. The treasurer of these various institutions is Mr. George Milner, J.P., President of the Manchester Literary Club, of whom mention will recur in another connection. Besides him the organising head is the present incumbent of St. Paul's, the Rev. J. W. Catton, M.A., an alumnus of Corpus Christi, Cambridge. His immediate predecessor (Marshall) was the author of novels, and the rector before him a well-known writer in *Fraser's Magazine* (Rev. Robert Lamb).

St. John's, Deansgate, was built in 1769 at the expense of Edward Byrom, of a noted Manchester family, who some years previously had been borough-reeve. Like all his race, Byrom was a devoted Churchman. He afterwards built a day-school in connection with St. John's, besides giving a silver mace to be carried in procession. The district has, in kindly remembrance, preserved the family name in Upper and Lower Byrom Street. In the days of its creation, St. John's was intended for the "genteel" residents who were migrating to the south side of the town—a respectability of origin that was very satisfactorily reflected in the consecration service. As we credibly read, the ceremony was performed by Keene, Bishop of Chester, who first consecrated the church and then the churchyard, "where there was a table and hassocks to kneel upon. There was also in the house (Byrom's) a table set out with all sorts of fruits and wine, pears, melons, grapes, peaches, cherries, currants, gooseberries, and cakes; and after the bishop had *restored* himself, he was taken to the Bull's Head, where was as handsome a dinner provided as could be." The Act of Parliament by which the church was founded gave the right of celebrating marriage; but in consequence of the double fees, or perhaps of the popularity of cross old Jotty at the Cathedral, it was thirty-five years before any single ceremony of the kind was performed in St. John's.

It is curious, too, how long-lived the rectors of this church have been. A late one, Huntingdon, had been rector or curate for over fifty, and his predecessor, John Clowes, for not less than sixty-six years. It is told of this latter that at the ceremony of induction, having locked the church door, he proceeded to the table to pray before tolling himself in. On unlocking the door he was congratulated by his friends in waiting on the length of time he was to be their pastor. Inquiring what

they meant, he was informed that he had tolled the bell fifty times, which was a sign that he was to hold it fifty years. "Nay," he said, "more like fifty days." Clowes was altogether a memorable figure. Early in life he became acquainted with



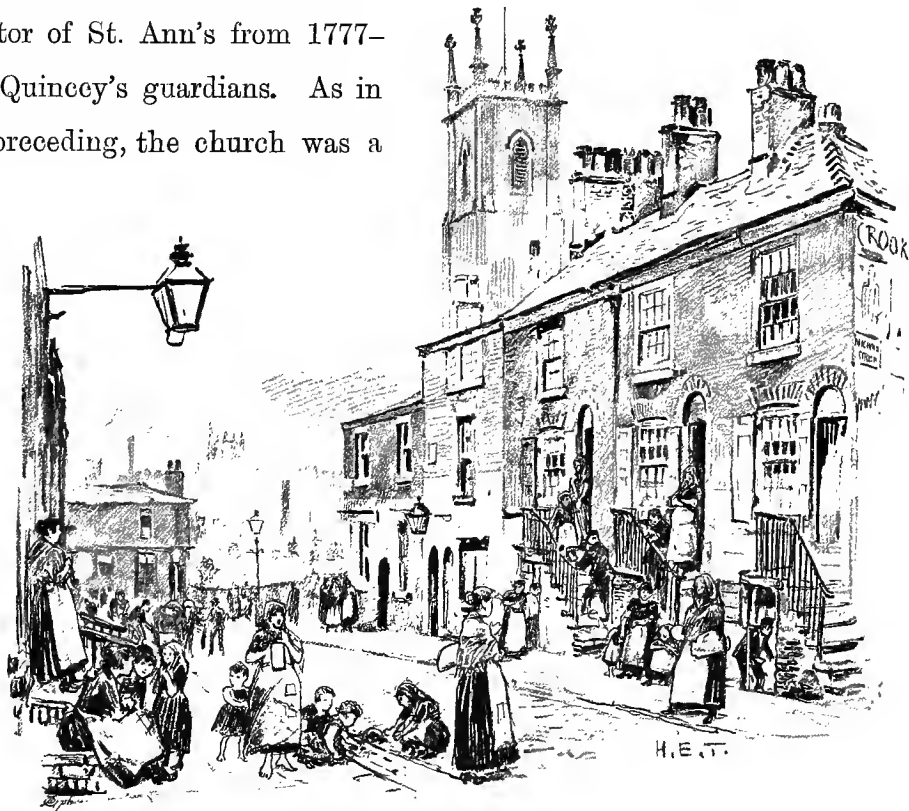
INTERIOR OF ST. JOHN'S, DEANSGATE.

the writings of Swedenborg, and afterwards devoted himself to the propagation, by his pen and in his pulpit, of the Swedenborgian doctrine, being undisturbed in the possession of his benefice, though in his later life he resided mostly in Warwickshire, leaving his Manchester parish to the care of curates. In the church itself—which is practically, with the addition of an inner chancel and with the alteration of the old high-backed pews, the same as when Clowes tolled himself in—there is a fine marble tablet to his memory by Flaxman, and one of the finest stained-glass windows in the North of England, given to him by a Rouen priest as a mark of friendship (p. 120). Clowes was a most prolific writer, and possessed of a powerful intellect; and it was under his influence that the Manchester Printing Society was established in March, 1783, for the publication of Swedenborg's writings and doctrine. The present incumbent is the Rev. C. F. Leach, M.A., who was inducted in June, 1890.

For almost twenty years after St. John's no other church was built in the town, but in 1788, no less than three churches were commenced—St. Michael's, St. James's, and St. Peter's—all of them owing their foundation to some one or other of the members of the collegiate church.

St. James's Church (Plate 13) was built in a very similar way to the other proprietary churches by the Rev. Cornelius Bayley, the man who is said to have been the cause of the split which rent the Manchester Sunday School Association. St. James's is remarkable as being one of the two churches to which the Wesleyans made a point of resorting, not merely for the communion, but also to hear the ordinary church service. So long as they kept it up, they used to assemble at Oldham Street Chapel on a Sunday morning at 9 a.m., hold a service for an hour and a quarter, and then adjourn to hear Dr. Bayley at St. James's, and there they formed, we are told, a considerable portion of his congregation. The present incumbent is the Rev. H. R. Hopwood, M.A.

The third church founded in this year (1788) was St. Peter's, Mosley Street, an imposing Doric structure, designed by the well-known James Wyatt (p. 124). The founder of the church and its first incumbent was Samuel Hall, rector of St. Ann's from 1777–1794, and one of De Quincey's guardians. As in the case of the two preceding, the church was a proprietary, or, if it can be said without profanation, a speculation church. Its second incumbent was the well-known Jeremiah Smith, the head master of the Grammar School, during whose time the conspicuous dome was added,



IN ANGEL MEADOW AND ST. CHAD'S, CHEETHAM HILL.

in 1823. The present incumbent is the Rev. W. Bedford, M.A. Over the communion-table of this church there is a fine painting by Annibale Caracci, "The Descent from the Cross." The picture was purchased in Italy by the Mr. Dawson who had been associated with Byrom in the founding of St. John's, Deansgate. He intended it for St. John's, but in consequence of a quarrel he changed his mind and gave it to St. Peter's, and there it still remains (p. 124).

During the next thirty or forty years only five churches were founded. Of these St. Clement's was the first. It was built in Stevenson Square, or Lever Street, in 1793, by the Rev. Edward Smyth. Some interest is attached to the old name, as it is virtually out of the funds raised from the sale of the old church and its site that the numerous St. Clement's of to-day have been erected. There are now no less than three in Manchester and two in Salford of the name. Of these St. Clement's, Ordsall; St. Clement's, Broughton Lane; and St. Clement's, Greenheys, were erected during the episcopate of Bishop Fraser, and consecrated by him.

The year (1794) following the erection of St. Clement's saw that of St. Mark's, Cheetham Hill. Like all its predecessors, it was built as a chapel-of-ease with no parochial rights. It is a square-looking, inartistic structure, still jealously preserved in all its original oddity, and situated, zealous antiquarians tell us, where the old archery butts used to be "in ye olden tyme." In 1839, forty-five years after its founding, the church was consecrated and had a district assigned to it, and in 1850 it became a parish church. Under the late rector, G. W. Reynolds, Secretary of the Diocesan Church-building Society, all the seats were made free. The present incumbent is the Rev. J. S. Bateson.

St. George's followed St. Mark's at an interval of three years, but was not consecrated until 1818. The original site was in George Street—the land now occupied by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway goods station. The church has since twitched its mantle blue and migrated to Oldham Road, where there used to be fields and pastures. There the new church was consecrated by Bishop Fraser in March, 1877; and if the Word is sent not for the righteous, but others, the situation of this church is surely ideal. Though a brick structure, it exhibits some beautiful internal effects, and possesses a fine marble carving in the reredos. The building cost over £10,000, towards which Mr. C. J. Heywood, a firm friend of the parish in its dark days, largely contributed. One claim to passing kindly mention at least it



ALL SAINTS', CHORLTON-ON-MEDLOCK.

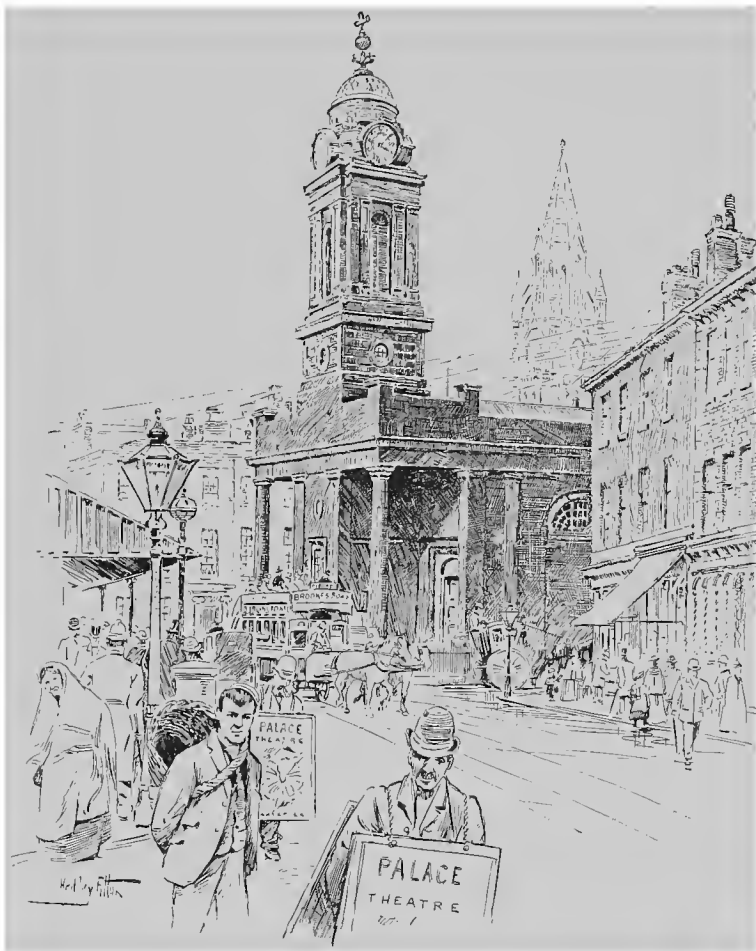
has, from its association with the name of Henry Kirke White, the poet, whose younger brother was formerly incumbent here. So great was the confidence of the parish in Parson White, he was allowed to appoint two churchwardens to the people's one, a custom which continued under his successor. The present incumbent is the Rev. C. C. Frost, M.A., of St. John's, Cambridge, formerly curate of St. Andrew's-the-Less, in Cambridge, and at Farrington, near Preston.

The erection of St. George's was succeeded by that of St. Luke's, Chorlton-on-Medlock, and St. Luke's again by that of All Saints'. The foundation stone of this latter was laid, "within view of green fields and sound of carolling birds," on the 12th of March, 1819, by the Rev. Charles Burton, F.L.S., proprietor, patron, and first incumbent. It was consecrated in April, 1820, by George Henry Law, Bishop of Chester. Fifteen years later, the steeple was completed, with cornice, balustrade, and dome, at a cost of £500, subscribed by the parishioners as a memorial of their esteem for their incumbent. The fire which partially destroyed the church in 1851 is a well-known local incident, to judge from the numerous pictorial reproductions of the scene. The place was restored by voluntary contributions amounting to nearly £3,000, and was reopened in the same year (Plate 23). Since that event there have been no alterations of note in the structure, excepting the addition of a beautiful stained glass window to the chancel in 1855, and the beautifying of 1880. The parochial connections of the church, however, have considerably developed. Through the liberality of the late Mr. Herbert Birley, the mission church of St. Matthias, Saville Street, was founded in the parish. This church, which is in the charge of the Rev. Robert Haworth, supplies accommodation for a much overcrowded district. In addition to this the original church has thrown off another branch. In 1883 the parish was divided, and a large portion of the south end of it formed into the separate parish of St. Ambrose. The church



TO THE CHARITABLE.

situated in Higher Chatham Street, was consecrated by Bishop Fraser in the same year, when the bishop instituted the Rev. C. E. Partington, formerly curate of All Saints', as first incumbent. There is some interest attaching to the personality of



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, MOSLEY STREET.

the rectors of this church. Charles Burton, the founder, began life as a Wesleyan, but rose to be of great consideration in the church of his adoption. Under his second son, the Rev. Gustavus Matthews Burton, Mus.D., who was nominated by his father's trustees, the present musical services were commenced in March, 1878. They are held on the afternoon of each last Sunday in the month, and frequently with full band accompaniment, and "have ever since proved highly popular and drawn large congregations, and given a distinct impetus to the popularisation of sacred

music in Manchester and suburbs." On the death of Dr. Burton in 1887 the Rev. David Ellison was inducted to All Saints'; on the appointment of the Dean and Canons of Manchester, to whom the patronage fell in 1880 (Plate 25).

From such an account of the Manchester churches it will be conjectured that by the time of the accession of George IV. there was a decided lack of church accommodation, but in 1820 the Church-building Commissioners submitted to a Manchester parish meeting an offer for the building of three churches on the condition that the parish would pay for the site by a church rate. There was, however, at the time, and there continued to be until the Act of 1850, a very strong feeling that the revenues of the collegiate church ought to be applied wholly and unstintingly for the parish purposes, and by a large majority the meeting decided against the offer.

This state of feeling continued for many years, and was an effective bar to any exercise of individual generosity in the way of church-building. The single



J. Davenport Kelly

CANON KELLY, M.A.

(From a Photograph by Brown, Barnes & Bell.)

exception to this statement is worthy of note from more points of interest than one. The Church of Holy Trinity, Hulme, was built in 1841 by the generosity of Miss Eleanora Atherton, a noble contributor to many local charities, and of note, too, as the last of the descendants of that Dr. John Byrom who is of such general fame in the history of the town. The church was built after designs by Mr. (afterwards Sir) Gilbert Scott and Mr. S. Moffatt, and cost about £18,000.

The incumbency is now held by the Rev.

W.H. Brayshaw. Miss

Atherton died in 1870 at the age of eighty-nine.



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, STRETFORD ROAD.

Having thus had their proposed scheme rejected, the Church-building Commissioners wrought alone. That they were no *fainéants* is evidenced by the four churches which we owe to their hands, and which were later annexed to the four residential canonries of the Cathedral. The first of these to be built, St. Matthew's, was the last

to fall into this scheme of canonries, in consequence of the length of life of the incumbent who was in possession at the time of the passing of the Act of 1850. It is now held by Canon J. Davenport Kelly (p. 125), who was nominated in 1886 by Bishop Fraser. The church was founded in 1822, is considered a fine specimen of modern Gothic, and is further noteworthy as being about the first public work designed by Sir Charles Barry, the architect of the Houses of Parliament. Under the incumbency of Canon Kelly it has been thoroughly restored, at a total cost of about £2,000; a new pulpit was purchased in memory of the late rector, Canon Bently, a chancel was formed in the eastern bay of the nave, and vestries and choir stalls were erected, the sedilia being the gift of Mrs. Kelly, wife of the present rector. In 1890 these decorations were completed in memory of Mr. William Harrison, who had been churchwarden, treasurer, and superintendent of the school.

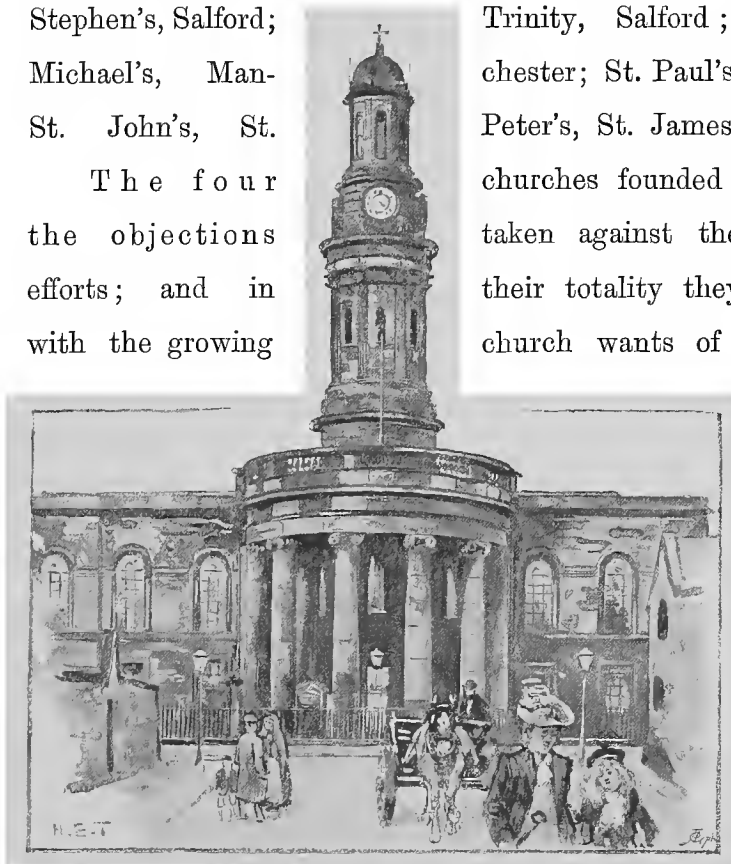
Three years after St. Matthew's was built a similar grant of £14,000 was made for the erection of St. Philip's, Salford. The church was consecrated in September, 1825, and became a district church in 1828 on the recommendation of the commissioners. As an incumbency, it is held by one of the four canons of the Cathedral, and up to his recent death was in the possession of Canon Julius Lloyd. It is now held by his successor, Canon Hicks, temperance reformer and archæologist (p. 127).

St. Philip's was followed by St. George's, Hulme, in 1826, now held by the senior canon, the Rev. Canon Wm. Crane (p. 128), and St. Andrew's, in Travis Street, in 1829, now held by the Rev. Canon Woodhouse (p. 133). In the case of St. George's, the site was given by Wilbraham Egerton, and the church built after plans by Mr. Goodwin. The church is in the Perpendicular Gothic style, and was long considered one of the finest structures in the town. Of this his church the senior Canon says—like the needy knife-grinder—"Story? God bless you! I have none to tell, sir." If story there were, the comparison would hold only too movingly, for Hulme was once a sparse and wealthy neighbourhood, and now it is—but never mind what it is.

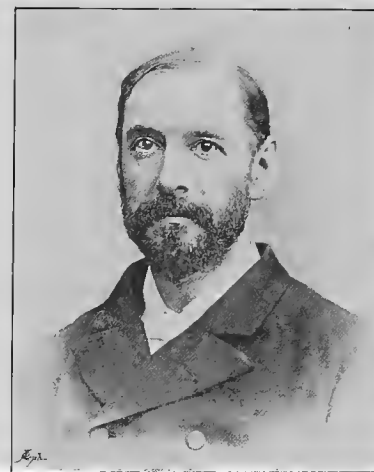
In accordance with the recommendations of the Commissioners, three of the four churches had districts assigned to them (St. George's, Hulme; St. Philip's, Salford; and St. Matthew's, Campfield), and had therefore become parishes for all practical ecclesiastical purposes. Up to 1839 they were the only three churches (or, including the original parish collegiate church, there were only four) which had that character.

In that year (1839), however, the Commissioners reported that there were twenty-three other churches and chapels within the original parish of Manchester which had been duly consecrated, and which were as yet without any district or parish within which they had an assigned cure of souls, and that it was highly desirable these churches and chapels should have districts so assigned to them as in the cases already instanced. This was accordingly decreed, and in the *London Gazette* of March 29, 1839, these churches and chapels are named, and the bounds of their districts are stated. The new names are—Blackley Chapel; St. Mark's, Cheetham; All Saints', Newton; St. James's, Gorton; St. Thomas's, Ardwick; All Souls', Chorlton-on-Medlock; St. Matthew's, Salford; St. Clement's, Chorlton-cum-Hardy; Birch Chapel, Rusholme; St. James's, Didsbury; St. Thomas's, Heaton Norris; Denton Chapel; St. Stephen's, Salford; Michael's, Manchester; St. John's, St. Peter's, St. James's, and St. Andrew's.

The four the objections efforts; and in with the growing



ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH, SALFORD.



Edmund L. Hicks

CANON E. L. HICKS, M.A.

(From a Photograph by M. Guttenberg, Limited)

churches founded under Peel's Act were not open to taken against the old irregular spasmodic building their totality they represent a genuine effort to cope church wants of the town, and it was only because of the swift growth of the population that they did not prove adequate to those wants. But in addition to this inadequacy, there were other incitements to the agitation that resulted in the Rectory Division Bill.

In the process of cutting and carving, by which all these districts had been formed out

of the original huge Manchester parish, the clergy of the collegiate church had taken care to reserve to themselves their fees. The same issue of the *Gazette* which contained an advertisement of the delimitation of those districts contained a clause for reservation as to these fees. The result was the creation of a double system of charges in these district churches. To avoid this exaction, the whole parish flocked to the collegiate church for their marriages and baptisms, "as they could be married there for 5s. instead of 10s.," and the result was that the average publication of banns in the parish church of Manchester was something like 180 per Sunday, and on one occasion the number was 350. A second point was the revenue question. The various churches had been hardly at all, or most insufficiently, provided with endowment. In many cases the incomes ranged from £30 to £126. As an attempt to remedy this, the Ecclesiastical Duties and Revenues Act, 1840, had provided that in the case of Manchester, after paying £2,000 to the dean and

£1,000 each to the canons, the rest of the income of the collegiate church should be paid into the common fund of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, to be applied according to their discretion. From the general wording of the Act the surplus revenues might be applied to other districts than

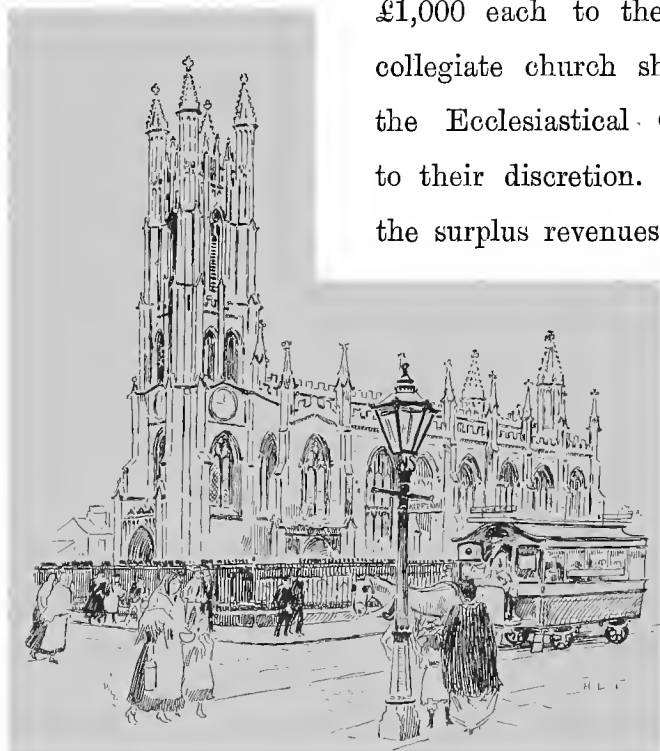
Manchester, an idea which the inhabitants declined for a moment to entertain. What they wanted was the performance of parochial duty by some part of the Cathedral clergy, and the appropriation of the surplus revenues for local distribution. The third claim of the agitation was the reduction to something like understandableness of the ecclesiastical



Yours truly
Wm. Crane

CANON CRANE, M.A.

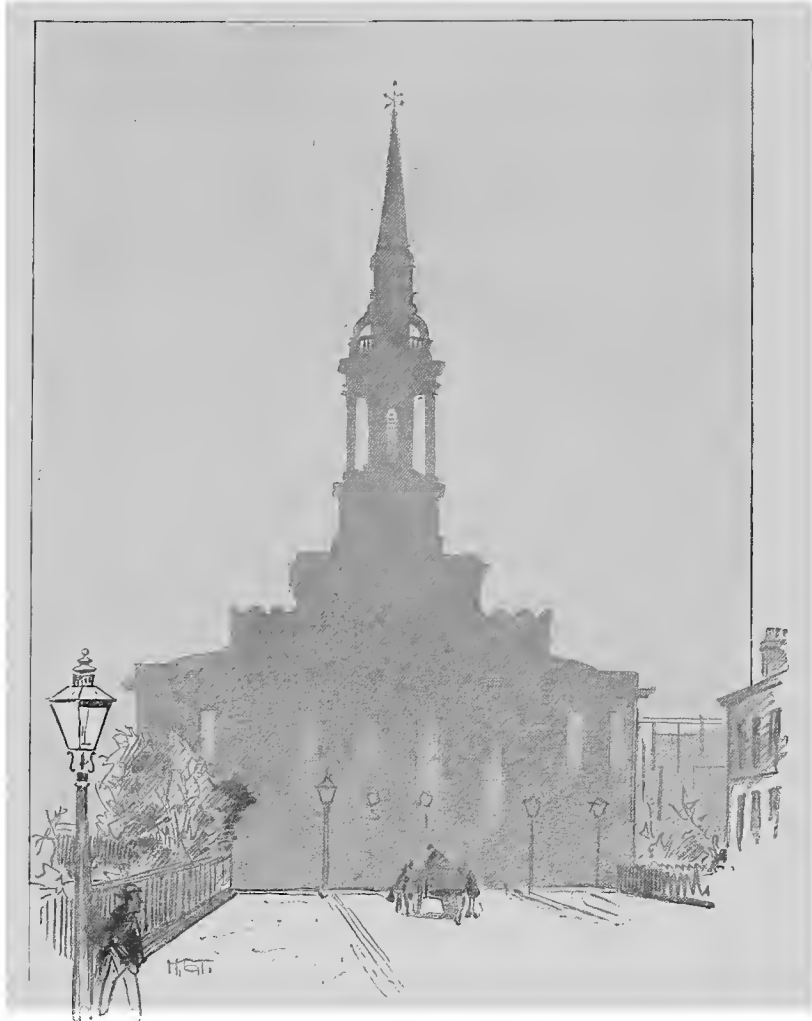
(From a Photograph by J. Mudd & Son.)



ST. GEORGE'S, HULME.

system thus existing. All these points raised by the agitation were gained by the passing of the Act 13 and 14 Vict., c. xvi., "an Act to authorise the division of the parish of Manchester into several parishes, and for the application of the revenues of the collegiate and parish church, and for other purposes."

The moment the cause of discontent was removed the springs of private charity began to flow. One example of this spirit deserves mention, honourable and apart. In the district of Hulme no less than five churches were built and endowed by Hugh Birley and his brothers—St. Philip's, of which Canon Birley is rector, St. John the Baptist's, St. Michael's, St. Stephen's, and St. Gabriel's. In church building alone this public-spirited family has given of its substance £100,000 and more, a sum that does not include their contributions in aid of educational and other institutions. The last-named of this group of churches (St. Gabriel's) was the outcome of a joint effort of the Birleys and Lord



CHRIST CHURCH, ACTON SQUARE.

Egerton—the late Lord Egerton, who also built and endowed St. Mary's in the same district, a most noble church in the geometric style.

Some of the remaining churches are of sufficient interest to merit detailed reference, though as a body, and on the whole, there is little to relieve the monotony of the subject in attempting a large treatment of them. For the old party names that once had such demoniac force in men's minds seem to be dying out altogether, and so it comes about that things are done nowadays without a murmur that would

have set a parish on fire a generation back; and churches such as St. John the Baptist's, in Hulme; St. Benedict's, in Ardwick; St. Alban's, Cheetwood; and St. John's, Miles Platting, once notorious for "ritualism," or so indicted by their enemies, and the scene of disputes and disturbances, now lead a thin-fluid, uncontroverted and uncontroverting existence. And again, St. Paul's, Kersal Moor, and St. Ann's—who still calls them Low Church? And if the name is in use what does anybody understand by it?

The foundation-stone of Christ Church, Acton Square, Salford, was laid in 1830, and the place was consecrated in the following year (p. 129). Its first rector was the Rev. Hugh Stowell, M.A., one of the most prominent leaders of the Evangelical party in England, and the author of "Pleasures of Religion, and Other Poems." The connection of the family with the church was continued through his son, T. Alfred Stowell, who became rector in his place, and Honorary Canon of Manchester and Rural Dean of Salford. In 1890 Canon Stowell received the appointment of Rector of Chorley and Rural Dean of Layland, and thus was severed a sixty years' connection of the name of his family with Manchester. Under Hugh Stowell's incumbency at Salford no less than £60,000 was raised by the church for religious, educational, and charitable purposes. The Stowell Memorial Church, built, as its name implies, as a memento of the name and fame of the father of the late rector of Christ's, was consecrated in 1862 by Bishop Lee. Stowell's successor at Christ Church is the Rev. Fergus Hill, M.A., of Trinity College, Dublin.

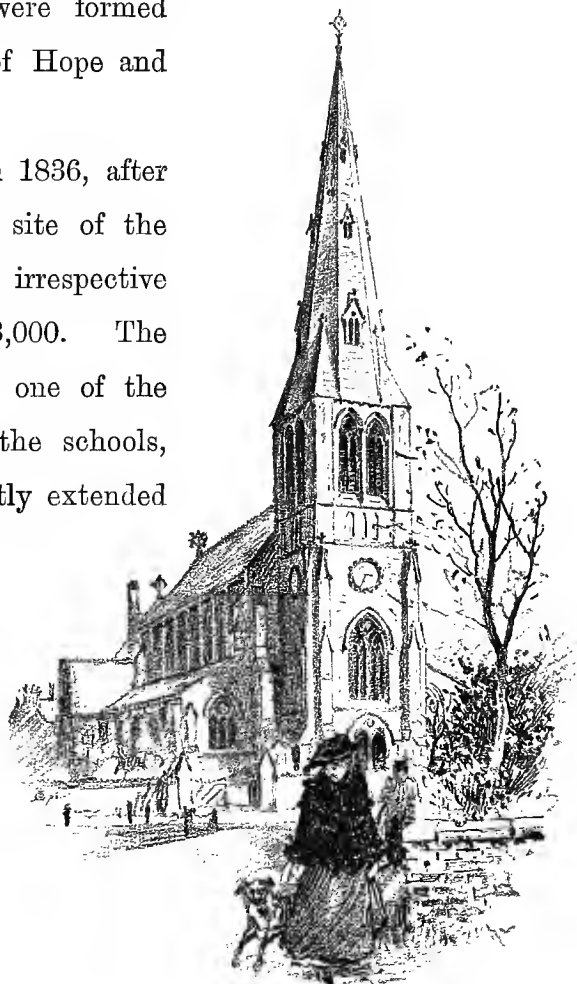
St. Mary's, Crumpsall (p. 131), is a notable church in quite another way. It is held to be one of the finest ecclesiastical structures in the diocese. As it stands it is of recent date. Its predecessor was built in 1839 from designs by Messrs. Mangnall and Littlewood, architects, of Manchester, at a cost of £6,500. On the 4th of January, 1872, this edifice was destroyed by lightning and fire, and its successor was consecrated three years later by Bishop Fraser. Under the rector, the Rev. Robert Catterall, a large lecture- and assembly-hall (St. Mary's Hall) has been added, and a large school-house built on land given by the Earl of Wilton.

St. Stephen's, Chorlton-on-Medlock, is a comparatively modern church. The parish was formed from St. Saviour's during the incumbency of the Rev. Edward Birch. It was consecrated in 1854 by Bishop Lee, having been erected after plans by E. A. Shellard, at a cost of £3,300. It was enlarged in 1863. It is not of

interest structurally, but rather as the present scene of the labours of Canon West, one of the ablest clerical exponents of Church Defence. Canon West was educated at St. Bees College, and became general secretary of the Church of England and Ireland Temperance Reformation Society, for he is a rigid abstainer. In 1874 he was appointed rector of St. Philip's, Bradford Road, Ancoats, from which church he was moved in 1880 to St. Stephen's. During his incumbency at St. Philip's two new districts, St. Mark's and St. John's, were formed out of his parish, and a most active Band of Hope and temperance work was carried on.

St. Luke's, Cheetham Hill, was built in 1836, after designs by T. W. Atkinson (p. 132). The site of the church was given by the Earl of Derby, irrespective of which the cost of erection exceeded £23,000. The rector is the Rev. J. Chippendale, a son of one of the original trustees. Under Mr. Chippendale the schools, which were erected in 1844, have been recently extended at a cost of £1,000. There is one interesting record in connection with this well-to-do place. Its organ, a fine instrument by Hill, has been consecrated by the fingers of Mendelssohn, who played on it in 1847—the year of his death—when he visited Manchester to give a performance of his “Elijah.”

St. Jude's Church, Ancoats, has a peculiar history attached to it. It was erected in 1821, and built in a period of two months and twenty-three days, the result of an outburst of religious zeal on the part of a body of tent Methodists. A banker in Marlborough (Wilts), originally a Manchester man, sent a tent to Manchester in which the Gospel was to be preached in centres of dense population. The tent was pitched in Mather Street on the 19th of August, 1821, and on the 1st of October in the same year, “after a stirring sermon,” the foundations of a permanent chapel were dug in six hours by 140 persons. In 1837 the Methodist interest waned,



ST. MARY'S, CRUMPSALL.

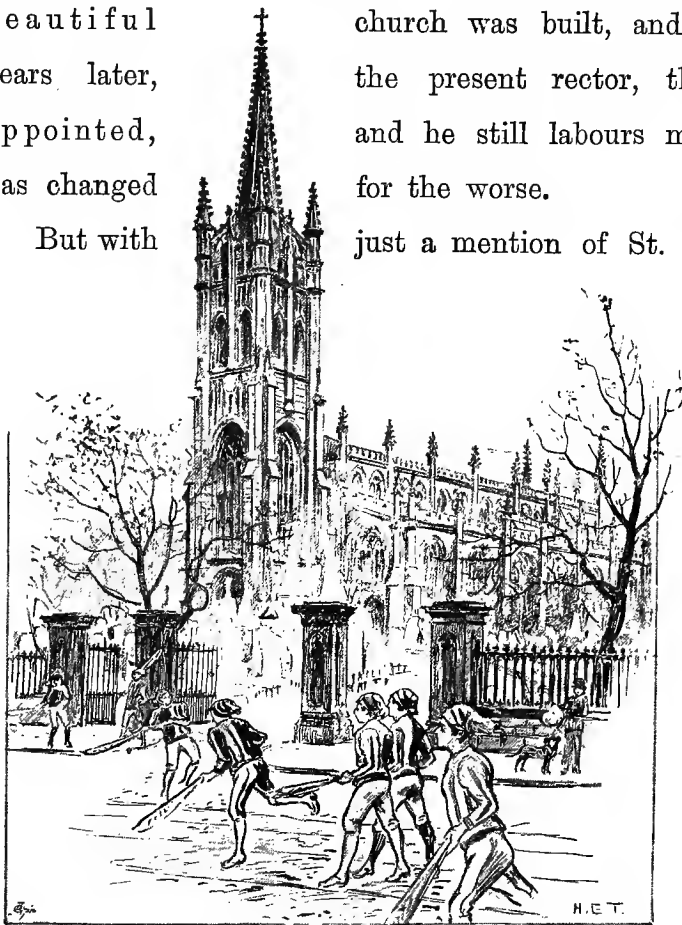
and the chapel was saved from sale by the late Robert Gardner. Its first incumbent was P. O'Leary. Under his successor, J. MacCartie, the existing beautiful church was built, and in April, 1866, consecrated. Two years later, the present rector, the Rev. John Watson, M.A., was appointed, and he still labours manfully although the neighbourhood has changed for the worse.

But with

just a mention of St. Mark's, City Road, a simple, elegant

church, and Birch Church, we must leave this side of Manchester life. The last of these is among the very oldest in the district. It was founded as a

private chapel of the Birch family in the time of Elizabeth — some say even as early as 1538.



ST. LUKE'S, CHEETHAM HILL.

During the Commonwealth it was occupied by the Independent Colonel Wigan, and under Charles II. by another Nonconformist, Henry Finch. It was not until the death of the proprietor, Thomas Birch, in 1697, that the chapel became again distinctly Church of England. From that date of course it has remained entirely and distinguishedly Anglican. Within later times it has acquired much local note from its connection with the name of the Venerable G. H. G. Anson, the late archdeacon, who has held the rectory



ST. ANDREW'S, ANCOATS.

since 1846. It became a district chapelry in 1850 and a rectory in 1854, and has since been rebuilt, and now forms one of the most beautiful as well as one of the most interesting churches in the district.



CANON C. W. WOODHOUSE, M.A.
(From a Photograph by Franz Baum.)

At present the Roman Catholics form an extremely strong and respectable body in Manchester. Little more than a century since they could not meet in safety; a century before that, if they met at all, it was in the Fleet. Although Lancashire was notorious for the strength of its Catholic interest, during the eighteenth century there is hardly any mention of them. In 1744 the number of adult Catholics in the town was not more than fifteen, a statement that is strangely at variance with what we should expect from the names of the Catholic families of the neighbourhood. About that

time they are said to have met for worship in a house in the Parsonage, the priest being provided by the Trafford and Barlow families. Afterwards their chapel was a portion of a house in Church Street, in the neighbourhood of Roman Entry which continued to be so used until the erection of St. Chad's Chapel, Rook Street, in 1774. Nineteen years later they were in possession of a second chapel in Mulberry Street.

Now there are twenty-eight congregations in Manchester and Salford, and the latter is the seat of the bishopric, which gave to the English Roman Catholic hierarchy its primate, Dr. Vaughan, successor of Manning as Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster.



AMONGST THE LAPPED MASSES, LONG MILLGATE.

The oldest of these existing churches is St. Mary's, Mulberry Street, the church just referred to as founded in 1793, which was rebuilt in 1848. It is at present under the Rev. Edward O'Dwyer and Thomas Buckley.

Among the older of the present congregations are St. Augustine's in Granby Row, which was opened in 1820, the first of the churches to be built after Roman Catholic emancipation, and now administered by the Revs. G. Richardson, M.A., T. Bolton, and J. Crombleholme; St. Patrick's, Livesey Street, which was built in 1832; St. Peter's, Greengate; St. Wilfrid's, Hulme; St. Aloysius', Park Place, Ardwick; and St. Anne's, Junction Street, Ancoats, dating respectively from 1833, 1842, 1832, and 1847. St. Wilfrid's was designed by the elder Pugin, but it is disappointing. It was here that the late Canon Toole ministered so long. The remaining churches, with the exception of St. Chad's, Cheetham Hill, are of comparatively recent formation. The last, now under the Very Rev. Monsignor Gadd, Canon of Salford Cathedral, was consecrated in 1847. Chief among them all is the Church of the Holy Name in Oxford Street (p. 136). The predecessor of this most imposing structure was so mean in appearance as to have earned the name "the Shed." It—the Shed—was opened by Cardinal Manning in 1868, and its successor, three years later, by Dr. Turner, the Bishop of Salford. The church is built in thirteenth-century Gothic style, from designs by Hansom & Sons, London. The nave is four bays in length, 75 feet in height, and its roof is ribbed with hexagonal tiles or voussoirs. The transept occupies a fifth bay, and the chancel two others of unequal width, the further and smaller one enclosing the sanctuary. The rector of the church is the Rev. Bernard Vaughan, brother of the present Archbishop, descendants, both, of a historic Catholic house, the Vaughans of Courtfield: a house that has produced, even in later times, some notable figures—the late Archbishop of Sydney, New South Wales; and the South American missionary, Kenelm Vaughan, another brother of the Archbishop; and yet another brother, Jerome, a prior of the Benedictine order. The present rector of the Church of the Holy Name was born in 1849 and educated at Stonyhurst. At the age of nineteen he joined the Society of Jesus, and afterwards became a preacher at the Farm Street Jesuit Church in London, where his sermons created as strong an effect and enthusiasm as his later discourses have done and are doing in Manchester. In addition, Father Vaughan is prominent as a platform lecturer,

especially in the temperance cause, and that not merely in Manchester, though his philanthropic efforts and organised work are more directly in connection with his own church. For instance, there is a continual charity work pursued here, which is attended to by the fathers in the church; there are, besides, numerous societies, one a band of 300 to 400 young men—Clubbists or Sodalists they call themselves—and so on. For these societies a new building has been provided on spare ground adjoining the presbytery of the church.

The Cathedral Church of Salford is a noble building, though not of stone throughout, but the situation is bad (p. 137). The interior looked well when left alone, but a few years since the chapter had it painted a dirty stone-colour, and the place was described by no unalien hand as dirt and dinginess personified. It was built in 1855 at a cost of £32,000, from designs by Wightman and Hadfield of Sheffield. It is a cruciform structure of the Decorated order, and contains some fine altar-work by Welby Pugin. The diocesan hierarchy includes the bishop and two vicars-general, the Right Rev. Monsignor Croskell and the Very Rev. Monsignor Gadd, and the cathedral chapter, including the provost and ten canons.



Bernard Vaughan

THE REV. BERNARD VAUGHAN.

(From a Photograph by Lafayette, Manchester.)

The most prominent of these figures has, as we have said, been removed to Westminster. The Right Rev. Herbert Vaughan, elder brother of the father of the Church of the Holy Name, was appointed Bishop of Salford in 1872, in succession to Dr. William Turner, the first Bishop of Salford nominated after the re-formation of the Catholic hierarchy in England. Bishop Vaughan's work in Manchester was not the less real for all the unbending arrogance of his attitude towards the apostate, schismatic, forsaken, and wandering church under whose broad shield and leniency he lived in safety. He was the originator of St. Bede's College, besides being prominent in all the unsectarian philanthropic efforts of the city. His successor in the bishopric, Monsignor Bilborrow, was consecrated by Archbishop Vaughan in August, 1892. Bishop Bilborrow was educated at Ushaw College, and ordained priest by the late Bishop Goss. After establishing a mission at Barrow-in-Furness, where he

was the first resident Catholic priest, he was appointed to Newsham, near Preston, and from 1883 became Vice-Rector, and then Rector, of St. Joseph's College (Liverpool Diocesan Seminary), Upholland, near Wigan. It was from this last dignity that he was transferred to the Salford bishopric.

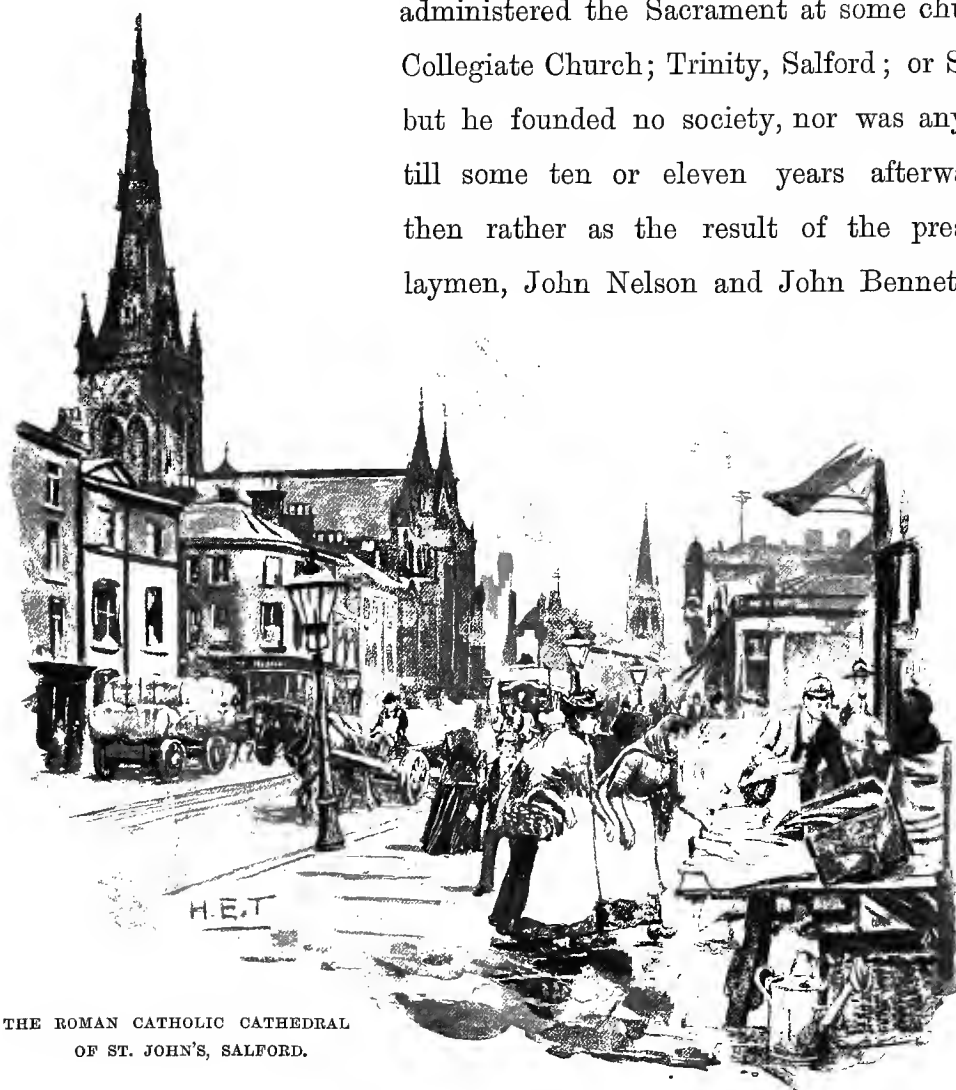
To pass to another and a very different body. In the earliest days of Methodism, Manchester did not play so notable a part as some other towns of less



THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY NAME, OXFORD STREET.

importance, or as one might be led to expect from its having been so frequently honoured by the visits of John Wesley. Wesley had been fellow-collegian with the Rev. John Clayton, who became the Jacobite Fellow of the Collegiate Church. He was a friend, too, of John Byrom, the witty, genial, and queer-looking poet. It was this latter who taught Wesley shorthand, and whose system he preserved in his shorthand journals, only a part of which has as yet been given to the world. It is even said that the intimacy between the three friends was so great that Byrom's tract against the races on Kersal Moor may be looked upon as their joint work. Certainly Wesley, in his early days, highly prized those friendships, and visited Manchester on more than one occasion in order to consult Clayton before taking an important step. In this way his second visit, in 1735, was to ask

his friend's advice as to the proposal about going out as a missionary to the Indians of Georgia, and the first journey he made immediately on his return, two and a half years later, was to Clayton. On these various occasions Wesley preached and administered the Sacrament at some church—the Collegiate Church; Trinity, Salford; or St. Ann's; but he founded no society, nor was any founded till some ten or eleven years afterwards, and then rather as the result of the preaching of laymen, John Nelson and John Bennet.



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL
OF ST. JOHN'S, SALFORD.

The first lay preaching that Manchester heard was in 1742, when John Nelson spoke before a crowd of 2,000 at the Market Cross. Most of them behaved well, he says, "but when I was in the middle of my discourse one at the outside of the congregation threw a stone, which cut me on the head. However, that made the people give greater attention, especially when they saw the blood run down my face, so all was quiet till I had done and was singing a hymn. Then the constable and his deputy came and seized me and Mr. Bennet, and said we must go before the justice."

The little society, at first thirteen or fourteen in number, which gathered as the

result of the labours of these two men, hired a room in a garret near Blackfriars Bridge for a meeting-place. It was at the bottom of a yard called the "Rose and Crown" Yard, on a spot later occupied by No. 10, Bateman's Buildings, which were erected in 1805. The room was the living-place of an old handloom-weaving couple, and contained loom, bed, coals, and coal-scuttle, with *et cetera* imaginable. The preacher was in danger of breaking his neck in getting to his—pulpit, let us say, and the members of the congregation ran the risk of having *their* necks broken by the floor giving way, a danger that was more than once feelingly referred to.

Practically the society struggled on for years without the advantage of Wesley's presence or influence. The breach between him and the Established Church had become more pronounced, and his old friend of the Collegiate Church—Clayton—grew cold, and the pulpit there was no longer open to him. The loss of so intimate a friend was the cause of deep pain, and Wesley seems to have avoided visiting the town in consequence. He felt the difference the first time he did appear after the estrangement from Clayton, and in the account that he gives of it makes no mention of his friend.

"We came to Manchester," he says (May 7th, 1747), "between one and two. I had not thought of preaching here till I was informed John Nelson had given public notice that I would preach at one. I was now in a great strait. Their house would not contain one-tenth part of the people, and how the unbroken spirits of so large a town would endure preaching in the street I knew not. Beside that, having rode a swift trot for several hours, and on so sultry a day, I was both faint and weary. But, after considering that I was not going a warfare at my own cost, I walked straight to Salford Cross. A numberless crowd of people partly ran before, partly followed after me. I thought it best not to sing, but, looking round, asked abruptly, 'Why do you look as if you had never seen me before? Many of you have seen me in the neighbouring church, both preaching and administering Sacrament.' I then began, 'Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.' None interrupted us at all, or made any disturbance till I was drawing to a conclusion when a big man thrust in with three or four more, and bade them bring out the engine. Our friends desired me to remove into a yard just by, which I did, and concluded in peace."

For many years after this Wesley did not return to Manchester, although his

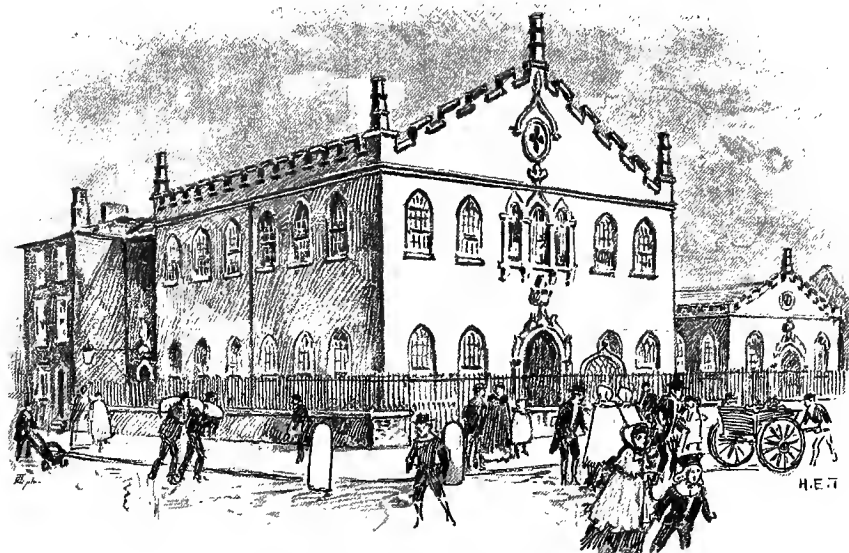
journeys often brought him into the neighbourhood, and the little society made headway as best it could. Two or three years after the leader's visit and after a temporary occupation of the old historic Coldhouse Chapel, they began the erection of a chapel of their own in Birchin Lane, at the back of High Street. As a church it was in John Bennet's round of visitation, a round or circuit covering Chinley in Derbyshire, Macclesfield in Cheshire, Burslem in Staffordshire, Holywell in Flintshire, Whitehaven in Cumberland, and Bolton and Manchester. Two years later (in 1752) Manchester's quarterly contribution to the support of the ministry amounted to £2 3s. 5d.

It was more than a dozen years before the town became the head of a circuit—the Lancashire, or, as it was called in 1766, the South Lancashire Circuit. From this, first Stockport, and then Oldham, were divided off, and from 1824 it became known as the first Manchester, or Oldham Street, Circuit. “Oldham Street” was the second Wesleyan chapel erected in Manchester. It was built in 1780, and opened on the 30th of March in the following year by John Wesley himself. “At the communion,” he says, “was such a sight as I am persuaded was never seen in Manchester before—eleven to twelve hundred communicants at once, and all of them fearing God.” The old building, which is likely to live long in the memory of many a Manchester Methodist, was a plain oblong brick structure, fronted with an iron palisading (p. 140), and possessing for internal adornment representations of the national arms on several shields suspended from the walls.

Although this building has now given way to the fine Central Hall, its renown is not likely to fade. In matter of historic Connexional interest it was fairly entitled to rank after Wesley's own London chapel in City Road. It was the scene of Wesley's frequent visitations; of some of the most important Conferences in the history of the body; and of the labours of the greatest and most representative men Methodism can boast—Benson, Thompson, Bradburn, Adam Clarke, Robert Newton, Jabez Bunting, and others of a later age. Indeed, Wesleyanism was guided through its time of sorest trial and danger by a band of men whose names may be identified with Oldham Street, and again, a generation and more later, ecclesiastical Wesleyanism was reconstructed by such another band. Benson, Mather, and Thompson, the men who carried through the Plan of Pacification, followed each other in close succession at Oldham Street. The first of these—the opponent of Tom Paine—was considered

one of the greatest preachers of his day. "When he preached on the Sunday evening at Oldham Street, he was generally attended by as many persons as could press within the doors, amounting to considerably more than 2,000, and so powerful was his preaching that these immense congregations were often moved, not only to tears, but to loud wailing, so that he was compelled to kneel down in the midst of his sermons and engage in prayer, that the people might relieve their minds by acts of devotion."

On Wesley's death the organised church he had left was exposed to a double



OLDHAM STREET WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

(From a Print by Fothergill.)

strife and danger. A feeling had grown against the monopoly of administration by the ministers in conference—their tyranny, it was called. The lay element demanded recognition, and there was opposition between trustees and ministers. The final result was the split and formation of the New Connexion under Kilham, and that the schism was not greater was due to the Plan of Pacification which the Conference owed to these Manchester ministers. The first draft of it, indeed, was drawn up by Thompson alone. That Plan also met the even greater difficulty of the Sacrament question, a question which was due to the personality of Wesley, and which threatened to destroy the movement he had created. Wesley had imbued his preachers as a body with his own reverence for the Church of England. To the end of his days he was most unwilling to permit the administration of the Sacrament in a Wesleyan chapel by unordained persons: the members were exhorted to repair to the Church of

England for the Eucharist. In Manchester the Wesleyans resorted mostly to St. James's Church, in George Street, or St Thomas's, Ardwick Green—churches to which Jabez Bunting's parents took him regularly. And years after Wesley's death, Cook, then the Conference secretary, proposed a scheme to the Bishop of London asking for episcopal ordination of certain ministers. Nothing came of the proposal, the Archbishop of Canterbury repulsed the friendly advance, and Wesleyanism was obliged to create its own order of ministers, and to take the administration of the Sacrament into its own hands. A Wesleyan nowadays would find it hard to conceive how any other arrangement ever prevailed.

Nevertheless, and although at Wesley's death congregations in all directions were clamouring for the Sacrament, so it was. The danger of alienating the great body of the ministers who still clung reverently to the Church of England was so great that nothing but the utmost forbearance and caution prevented a disruption of the Society. One year the Conference even resorted to the nerveless, paralysed measure of casting lots on the matter. Adam Clarke, then minister at Oldham Street, was appointed to draw the lot. He stood on a table, and as he



REV. JABEZ BUNTING, D.D.

proclaimed the result "You shall not administer the Sacrament this year," his voice, it was said, was like a voice from the clouds. The Plan of Pacification, for which Thompson and the successive labourers at Oldham Street were responsible, only permitted the administration in a congregation if it was demanded by a majority of the trustees, stewards, and leaders, and even then it was not to be performed on days on which it was administered in the National Church.

Yet under this rule the adoption of the sacramental administration soon became general, showing that the lay element of the congregations was clearly in favour of it, and the resort of Wesleyans to the Church of England gradually ceased. But that this result was accomplished without the shivering to pieces of the whole organisation of Wesleyanism was due to the extraordinary influence of these men—Thompson, Benson, and Mather, as well as to the fervour of feeling under which Conference

acted. Throughout the years 1791-7, the years of their residence here, Manchester was the seat and centre of the strife, and these three men, successive superintendents of the Oldham Street Circuit, are to be regarded, how little soever their names may convey to the ordinary Methodist mind of to-day, as the master-spirits of the time in their influence on the ecclesiastical polity of Wesleyanism.

In an even greater measure is the same true of the succeeding generation, on whom their mantle of authority, if not of tradition, fell. Jabez Bunting has been described by friend and foe—by friend in pride, and by foe in hate and detraction—as the Pontiff of Methodism. Robert Newton, too, who alone with Bunting shares the honour of having been four times elected President of Conference, was superintendent of the Oldham Street Circuit for two years. He was twice stationed at Irwell Street, and once at Grosvenor Street. In the various circuits of the town and of Liverpool no less than twenty years of his life were spent. He was a man of fine presence and handsome features. “It used to be related of him,” says Mr. Slugg, “that one evening he was preaching in Wakefield, and that a lady who was in the habit of attending the theatre at the solicitation of a friend went to see him. After she had heard him give out the hymn she became convinced that she was listening to no other than John Kemble. She went home and assured her husband that Jack Kemble was in the pulpit, and induced him to return with her. He did so, the result being that both husband and wife became members of the Methodist Society.”

Adam Clarke, too, the Archbishop Ussher of Wesleyanism, has more than ordinary claims to notice, on account of his connection with Manchester. He was three times nominated to the Oldham Street Circuit, and once again as superintendent of the Irwell Circuit, in 1822, the year in which he was President of Conference. It was during his second appointment (in 1803) that he founded in Manchester a branch of the Liverpool Philological Society, of which he was president. Within a few years the Society became extinct, but before it died it honoured itself by presenting the great scholar with two silver cups. It was at Manchester, too, that Clarke had first begun to practise medicine among the poor, thereby becoming acquainted with the Faculty in the town. Among his medical friends was the highly respected Dr. Eason, who was known as no professor of religion, but who could not forbear to add his testimony to Clarke's spiritual influence here.

“Oh, Adam!” he once exclaimed, “I like to attend your people in their last hours; they die so peacefully.”

But of all these men the most representative was Jabez Bunting (p. 141). Although the son of a poor Manchester Methodist tailor, and denied the advantages of superior education in his youth, this man came to exercise in Methodism an influence such as no other single man after Wesley has ever wielded in that body. As a child he had been carried by his mother to receive Wesley's blessing at the Oldham Street Chapel. In that same chapel, too, he was ordained at the age of twenty-four. His first appointment was to Oldham, whither he walked with all his earthly goods in a couple of saddle-bags slung over his shoulders, and then to London, where he revived for a time the good old custom of preaching at five o'clock in the morning—a custom the honouring of which in the breach had led, so said one worn-out old professional, to the war with Napoleon. It was this old custom which was once sharply recommended to Samuel Waddy as likely “to lengthen his days.” “Yes,” replied the brilliant wit, “and shorten my nights.”

Bunting was first appointed to Manchester, as third minister in the Oldham Street Circuit, in 1805. Nineteen years later he was superintendent of Grosvenor Street, and in 1828, when superintendent of Irwell Street, he was elected President of Conference. While he was at Grosvenor Street the membership trebled, and the result was the building of Oxford Road Chapel, which since 1846 has formed a separate circuit from Grosvenor Street. As the friend of Zachary Macaulay, too, he brought to Manchester his zeal for the abolition of slavery. But it is not in either of these connections that his name is most mentioned. It is rather on account of his influence in Conference, and of the part he played in the development of the Wesleyan polity. It is practically to him, or to the spirit of advance that spake through his lips, that the lay element of the Wesleyan body owes the recognition of its position. He first prevailed to have laymen joined with ministers in the working of the missionary society. He then proposed and carried their admission to the district meeting, and now their voice is heard in all matters of Connexional finance. Nearly every measure that has practically popularised the institutions of Wesleyanism owes its origin to him. It was the triumph of sound sense, as well as of foresight, and it was these qualities, as well as his luminous logic and trenchant brevity and consummate debate, which gave him such a power over the Conference.

At one of its meetings a circuit clamoured for an additional minister. Bunting cut short the threatened lengthy debate by four words—"Send them a horse," the intelligent animal being intended, of course, not to preach, but to carry "the Word."

It was Bunting, too, who drew the resolutions in which Conference dealt with Joseph Rayner Stephens, the future leader of the Chartist movement, and one of the



THE CENTRAL HALL, OLDHAM STREET.

most extraordinary men the district has seen. Stephens, whilst in the Ashton-under-Lyne Circuit, had joined the Church Separation Society, the object of which was the attack of the Established Church. He was severely examined before the Manchester district meeting, and was ordered to give up all connection with the Separation Society. The part that Bunting played in the matter earned for him the undying hate of the *Christian Advocate*, the editor of which was Stephens' brother, and which relentlessly pursued him with bitterest and foulest calumny.

Bunting did not die in Manchester, and his descendants are now identified with London, but his name and fame as the Moses (or Jabez) of Wesleyanism will remain throughout the history of the body indissolubly connected with his native town.

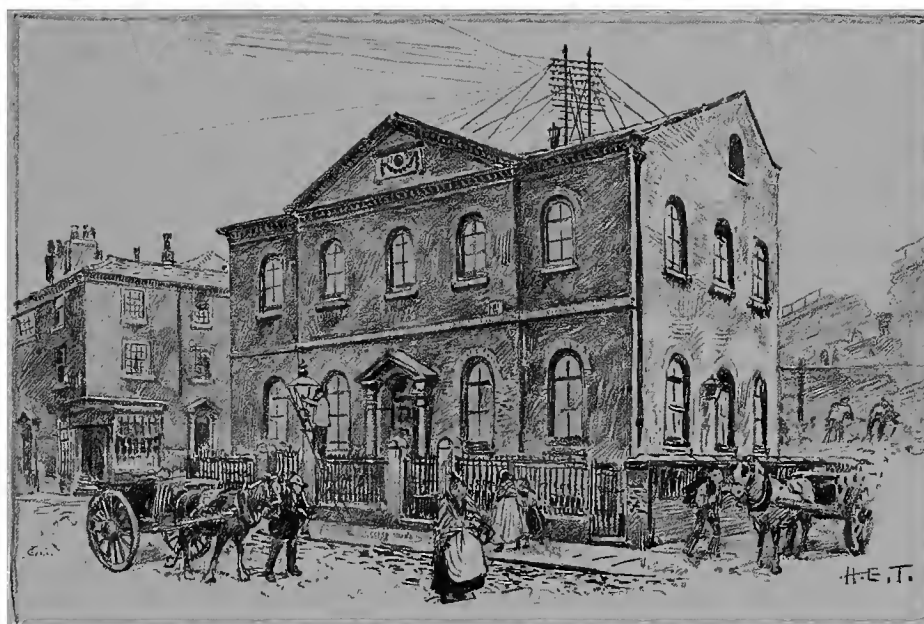
The later history of Methodism in Manchester reveals no name fitly comparable



SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE CENTRAL HALL.

with his. The town has several times been honoured by the visit of Conference ; but these have been occasions on which the body has displayed its littleness rather than its strength.

At the 1849 meeting occurred the expulsion of Everett, Dunn, and Griffiths, and again in 1871 the Rev. John H. Jones was placed on the supernumerary list for publishing a book against class membership. The last occasion, however, in



OLD GRAVEL LANE CHAPEL.

which Conference met in Manchester was a more auspicious one. It was to celebrate the completion of the Central Hall in Oldham Street.

The old chapel, in which Wesley had preached and much else memorable had happened, had felt in time a change of scene and circumstance. The population of Manchester was deserting the city and seeking the liberties, and it became a question whether a congregation could be kept up in such a situation as Oldham Street, and for some time the question of selling the valuable site was debated. It was well for the influence of Wesleyanism in Manchester that this scuttling idea was not entertained. Instead of it a very bold venture was made. The Oldham Street and Great Bridgewater Street circuits were suppressed, and made into the Manchester and Salford Mission, the Oldham Street Chapel was pulled down, and the present fine Central Hall erected, and it is now the scene of by far the most telling work Wesleyanism is doing (Plate 24, p. 144).

The opening of the Central Hall took place on the 27th of October, 1886, when a sermon was preached by Dr. Young, President of Conference. In the evening a still more memorable meeting took place, presided over by John Napier, the father of later Methodism in Manchester. Napier's first work in Wesleyanism was as teacher of the alphabet class in Chancery Lane, Ardwick, work that he began in 1817, and in his serene old age, quite up to his death, his heart and strength were devoted to the same cause. He became a member of the firm of Napier and Goodair, spinners, of Manchester and Preston, and the father of Napier of Alderley Edge, the collector of one of the most extraordinary private libraries in Lancashire, and himself the father of Professor Napier of Oxford. When the old man, with all his snowy heritage of honour upon him, appeared on the platform on the opening day, the meeting rose in spontaneous homage, listening to the period's feeble close with breathless respect. Napier was supported on that occasion by Charles Garrett, a name deserving of more than passing mention in connection with Manchester Wesleyanism, though Liverpool became the permanent scene of his labours.

In 1866 Mr. Garrett was appointed to Gravel Lane Chapel, in the Lower Broughton Circuit, which had been formed six years before by division from the Irwell Street. He afterwards passed two years in the Cheetham Hill Circuit, a division from Oldham Street. It was during his residence in Manchester that Garrett was elected to the legal hundred, but what will always remain a more binding link between him and the town is the fact that he owes his conversion to temperance principles to John Cassell. From the day on which he heard Cassell speak in favour of total abstinence he gave himself to the cause, and may be ranked with Wilberforce as its greatest modern champion.

When Garrett left Manchester he was presented with a cheque for 1,000 guineas and an illuminated address, a memorial to which the late Bishop Fraser characteristically subscribed. It was a good omen, therefore, that his name should be connected with Napier's in the opening of the Central Hall. For the place has become the centre of a mission organisation, the most valuable and intensely practical part of whose labours is devoted to the temperance cause and social amelioration. In addition to the work carried out at the Oldham Street Hall, there are Sunday evening services at the Free Trade Hall, besides the work at Great Bridgewater Street Chapel, Deansgate; Daniel Street Chapel, Ancoats; Wesley, and Ebenezer

Chapel, Redbank. The whole mission is worked by a local committee, and is under the Rev. S. F. Collier, who was appointed to Manchester in 1885, and then taken from circuit work and made stationary here. He is assisted by ministers, evangelists, lay missionaries, and sisters, the nucleus of a sisterhood.

At present the Manchester district, as it is called in the Connexion, covers



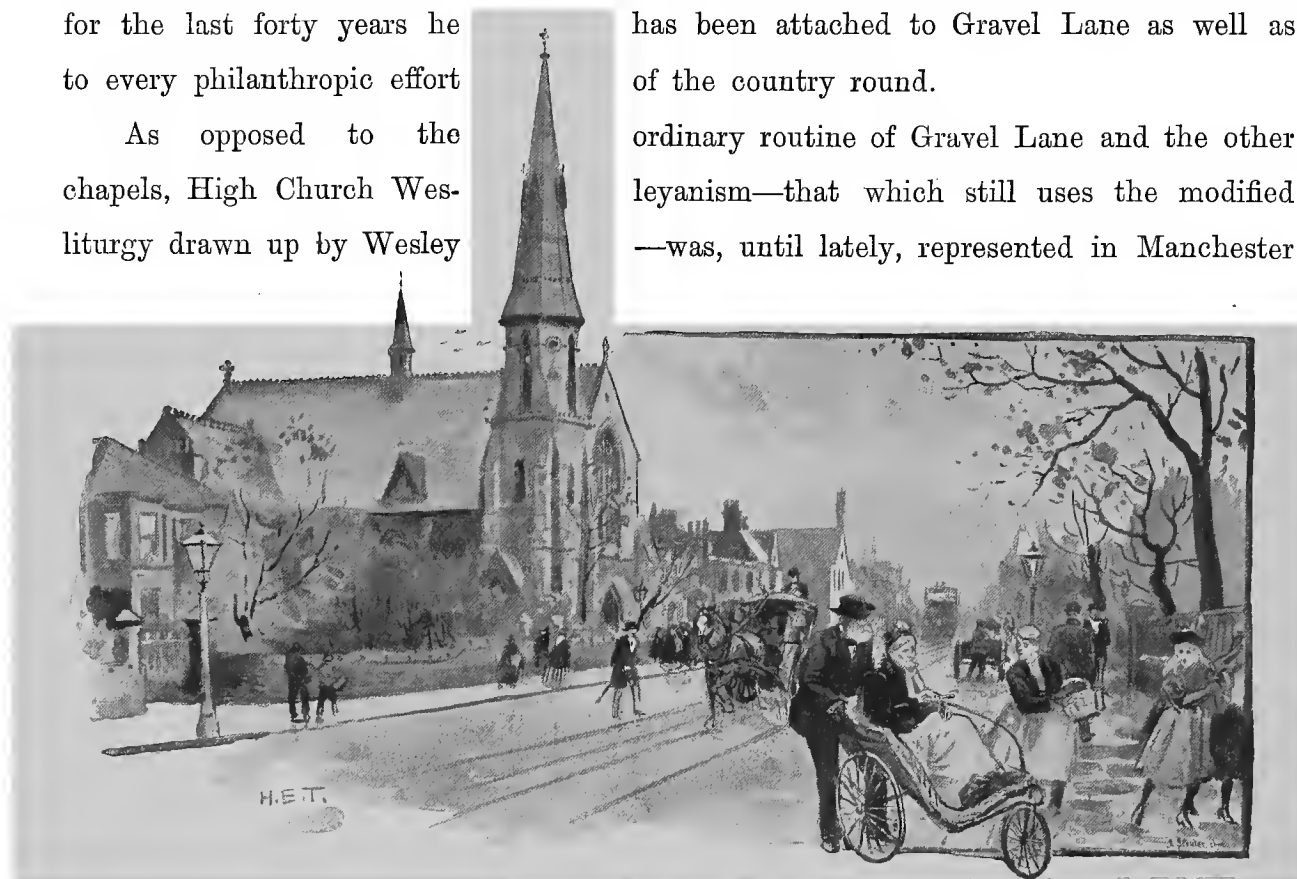
MAY DAY, OXFORD STREET.

Manchester, Eccles, Stockport, Alderley Edge, Ashton, Glossop, Oldham, Hyde, and so on. In Manchester itself there are twelve circuits, not including in these the various departments of the Manchester and Salford Mission.

The most ancient of these circuits after the extinct Oldham Street is Irwell Street, which was formed in 1813, being then known as the Salford Circuit, and from which have been divided off both Gravel Lane, formed in 1860, and Regent Road, formed into a circuit in 1875, five years after the building of the chapel. As a building Irwell Street is not so old or so interesting as Gravel Lane, having been erected only in 1826, whereas Gravel Lane dates from 1790 (p. 145). It stands on the site of Clayton's gardens—Clayton, Wesley's friend—and was opened by the great preacher Bradburn, and consecrated by the ministry of Adam Clarke and of Benson, who was to Bradburn, we are told, as the thorn to the umbrageous oak, but whose power was superior when the torrent of his eloquence broke loose,

“thrilling the hearts of his hearers, and producing an effect seldom produced by any other Wesleyan preacher.” In 1817 the chapel was enlarged, being made two windows longer, but it is now “to let.” The site has been purchased by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company, and it has been replaced by a “plain, substantial” chapel in Blackfriars Street. To the chapel are attached a Working Men’s Institute, girls’ parlour, and “twelve excellent class-rooms,” the total cost amounting to £15,000, etc. In connection with Gravel Lane, however, there is one name well known probably throughout northern Wesleyanism. Mr. H. B. Harrison came to Manchester from Chester, where his father, a good and venerable Churchman, attended cathedral service every day during his long and honoured career. Before coming to Salford Mr. Harrison was connected with Wesleyanism in Rochdale, but for the last forty years he has been attached to Gravel Lane as well as to every philanthropic effort of the country round.

As opposed to the ordinary routine of Gravel Lane and the other chapels, High Church Wesleyanism—that which still uses the modified liturgy drawn up by Wesley—was, until lately, represented in Manchester



LONGSIGHT WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

by Oxford Street Chapel, now the head of a circuit that was formed from Grosvenor Street in 1846.

The chapel, a semi-classic structure, was opened in 1826, and in its style seems suggestive of the transition from the old severely plain, straight-laced Methodism to the modern cult of fine buildings and attractive services (p. 147).

In 1867 the Radnor Street Circuit was formed by division from Oxford Street. It was presided over by the Rev. John H. Sholl, whose connection with Manchester seems likely to become perennial. He has served three years in Grosvenor Street, and again in Gravel Lane, and at the end of his three years in Radnor Street was invited to remove to Longsight, one of the youngest of all the Manchester circuits, formed from Grosvenor Street in 1879 (p. 148). Mr. Sholl is a Cornishman, self-educated, and still retaining a trace of the Cornish accent, a fact that does not impede him in the use of the Queen's English, for he is held by some to be the superior of the great Liberal leader in exuberance of verbosity.



VICTORIA WESLEYAN CHAPEL, CHEETHAM HILL ROAD.

Of the remaining circuits the most important are Grosvenor Street, which was formed in 1824, four years after the opening of the chapel, and Cheetham Hill, a comparatively recent circuit, formed in 1863, twenty-six years after the chapel had been built. Of these Great Bridgewater Street is no longer a circuit, having, as was said, been joined in the Manchester and Salford Mission.

The three remaining circuits—City Road, Victoria, and Oldham Road—are quite recent creations, the latter being intended in some measure to replace the suppressed Oldham Street.

As to the laity of Manchester Wesleyanism it would be almost impossible to speak. The roll includes some of the best families of the town—Isaac Hoyle, the Haworths, Johnsons, Bealeys, Barnes, the philanthropist mayor of the town, Wood, Alderman Davies, formerly Mayor of Salford, Napier, the unfortunate Westhead, the

Russells, co-founders both of the *Manchester Courier* and of Cheetham Hill Wesleyanism, and so on.

A further interest attaches to the denomination in Manchester from the location here of one of the four training colleges of the Wesleyan Theological Institution. Didsbury Training College was founded in 1842, when a small estate on the road to Cheadle was purchased by the Institution Committee. A large brick house was standing in the grounds. This has since been faced with stone, and wings added along with library, halls, lecture-rooms, laboratory, observatory, the whole forming a quadrangular block, and capable of accommodating seventy students. To the college has more recently been added a fine new Gothic chapel, in memory of the late James Heald (p. 151).

Among the college tutors in the past have been men not a little celebrated in Methodism—Dr. Hannah and Dr. Pope, whose portrait was specially painted for the late Jubilee celebration by Mr. Arthur Trevellyn Nowell. At present the staff consists of four tutors, among them the Rev. Marshall Randles, D.D., the chairman of the Manchester district.

Intimately connected with the Wesleyans are the New Connexion, the Free Church, and the Primitives. As a body the New Connexion are the most considerable of these, but, although in Manchester they are headed by Sir John Harwood, they do not hold this relatively strong position here, in spite of the fact that during the period of controversy in which the body originated the town was one of the headquarters of the Kilhamites, and was constituted one of their first circuits. It was in consequence of the pertinacity with which Alexander Kilham advocated the claims of the laity to a voice in the affairs of Wesleyanism, that he was expelled from the Conference here. And although the first Conference of the body was held at Leeds in 1797, one of the earliest of their chapels to be built was Mount Zion Chapel, in Manchester, situated between High Street and Shudehill. The Pendleton Chapel, Broad Street, was built as early as 1806, and Peter Street twenty-eight years later. It was in this latter—Peter Street Chapel—that the Jubilee Conference was held in 1846. It has since been sold by the body, and made into the Alexandra Music Hall, now called the “Folly,” a mistake from the effects of which the Connexion in Manchester has never recovered.

One of their finest edifices is the Salem Chapel, near Strangeways, erected in

1851—a brick building, with a noble portico, and attended by a well-to-do congregation (p. 152), as is also Boston Street Chapel, Hulme, a pretty but in every way modern structure.

The Manchester churches of this body are organised into two circuits—the South, containing Boston Street, Beswick, Pendleton, Altrincham, Eccles, and Openshaw chapels; and the North Circuit, comprising Salem (Bury New Road), Newton Heath, Failsworth, Miles Platting, Higher Blackley, Ten Acres Lane, Moston, and



DIDSBURY WESLEYAN COLLEGE AND CHAPEL.

Cromwell Road. A glance at the list reveals the fact that in the city itself there are not more than half-a-dozen chapels belonging to the body. Indeed, the centre of the district is not Manchester, but the neighbouring and much smaller town of Ashton-under-Lyne, where the Conference met in 1892, and the main strength of the body lies rather in the Potteries than in Lancashire. Of the ninety-eight annual Conferences held by the Methodist New Connexion, six have met at Zion Chapel, Longton, and seven at Bethesda Chapel, Hanley, and Ashton itself stands higher in the list than Manchester.

Considering the part played by Manchester in the formation of the New Connexion, the later backwardness of the town is matter for some slight surprise, and can hardly be attributed entirely to the mistake committed in the transfer of the Peter Street building. Outside Manchester, within the ten years, 1884-94, the Connexion increased its chapels by fifty, its circuit ministers by twenty-seven, its

members and probationers by nearly six thousand, and its teachers and scholars by more than eight thousand. Within the same period its income for Connexional funds and purposes rose from over £12,000 to more than £18,000. These are signs



SALEM CHAPEL, STRANGWAYS.

of progress sufficient in themselves to justify the reunion of the New with the Old Connexion. Even without their testimony, there would be something appropriate in making the 1896 centenary Conference of this body the era of its reunion with Wesleyanism, and Manchester the scene of the reconciliation. For all the points of demand and dissension which the Manchester agitators of 1796 enunciated, have since been fully conceded by the progress of Wesleyan constitutional development, and there are now no substantial differences remaining.

